

# THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER



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COURTESY HOPKINS NEWS & INFORMATION  
The University is hoping to find a buyer for Villa Spelman in Italy.

## University seeks to sell Villa Spelman

By MITRA HESHMATI  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Adam Falk, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, announced this week via e-mail that the University is looking to sell Villa Spelman in order to rid itself of the financial burden associated with owning and maintaining the estate.

If the property were sold, Hopkins would not discontinue its study abroad programs in Italy and would only seek a new venue for students to study.

Upon hearing news of the decision to sell on Feb. 14, Director of Villa Spelman Walter Stevens notified all graduate students in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures of his resignation via e-mail.

Despite rumors of private negotiations, the administration asserts that only an expression of interest to buy the property has been made. Aside from that, there is no definitive buyer and no contract in place at this point.

In a letter to Krieger faculty,

Adam Falk, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, explained, "The School has begun to evaluate the prospect of selling the Villa Spelman and redirecting the funds currently dedicated to maintaining and operating it into stipend support for graduate students in the Humanities."

The current semester may be the last in which Hopkins students will study at the Villa. "Our expectation at this point is that the programs at the Villa will be suspended at least temporarily after the spring semes-

ter, but that is not a decision that has been absolutely taken," Falk said.

Falk added that, in order to insure the Italy study abroad program's continuation, some money from the sale of the Villa would go towards supporting and continuing studies of Italian Renaissance art, history and culture.

Falk added, "The vitality of these programs does not depend on the use of the Villa as a meeting place, but rather on the excellence and dedication of the faculty and students." *CONTINUED ON PAGE A3*

## Commencement speaker chosen by administrators

Senior StuCo member says class recommendations ignored

By CHRISTINE HIGGINS  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

According to a ranking member of the Senior Class Student Council, the University Commencement Office, and not the senior class, was responsible for selecting Elias A. Zerhouni, director of the National Institutes of Health, as the 2006 graduation speaker.

When asked, Senior Class President Nattavadee Temkasem refused to comment. Because the senior class had trouble securing a speaker who would speak for free, the Commencement Office turned to its alumni connections. Executive Assistant to the President Jerry Schyndman explained, "In years past there were times when the senior class ran out of names on their list, and they needed to be helped along, and so we helped."

"If any of our trustees or President Brody has professional contacts with any of the people on the [senior class] list we consider the possibility of their attendance more seriously," Schyndman said. "The list is ranked in order of plausibility, and two letters go to each requested speaker from

both the president of the senior class and President Brody."

Since the announcement of Zerhouni as speaker was mostly met with disappointment from students, the commencement office hopes to begin the search earlier. "[Director of Commencement India] Lowres has initiated that the selection process will start earlier to ensure Hopkins obtains the best speakers that we can," Schyndman said.

Schyndman explained how the speaker is selected. "The senior class president creates a list from class or executive or committee opinions (that's his or her job to decide who is part of the nominations). Then, those names are presented at a meeting with Jeff Groden-Thomas [director of student involvement], India Lowres [director of commencement] and myself."

Ideally, the list that is constructed is representative of all the preferences within the senior class. Groden-Thomas said, "The senior class polls the student body and asks for suggestions, if anybody knows any."

*CONTINUED ON PAGE A2*

## Weekend snowfall takes Homewood by storm



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER  
Students took a break from their studies to have a snowball fight in the nearly one foot of snow that blanketed the Homewood Campus last Sunday evening.

## German, Romance Lang. to consolidate

By RAVI GUPTA  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Krieger School of Arts & Sciences has begun seriously discussing the merger of the Departments of German and Romance Languages and Literatures despite objections of German Department faculty and graduate students.

Adam Falk, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, said one of the main reasons for the merger is because of the small size of the German Department. The department has been recently reduced in size because a number of professors have left, and now only three tenured faculty remain. Discussion regarding the merger has been going on for nearly a year and will go into effect in the next academic year.

"It's important to understand that a department is an administrative division that houses programs and is not a program itself."

With the merger, there is no diminishment of the strength of the German program — quite the opposite really. Especially at the graduate level, education happens through interaction with the faculty, which is not being changed here," Falk said.

He explained how the merger could benefit members of both departments. *CONTINUED ON PAGE A3*

## East Baltimore residents discuss property compensation

By PATRICE HUTTON  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

As demolition continues for Phase I of East Baltimore's Biotechnical Park, residents gathered Monday to discuss concerns about subsequent relocation phases, including the fear that relocated residents will not be able to afford housing after their relocation compensation runs out.

"After those five years, when that supplement runs out, what happens to the residents relocated to more stable communities who can no longer pay their rent?" Marisela Gomez, director of SMEAC, asked.

President William Brody, Hopkins Health Systems Director Ron Peterson and Vice President Sally McConnell were unavailable for comment.

Residents attending the monthly Save Middle East Action Committee (SMEAC) meeting also expressed a concern about the fact that East Baltimore Development Inc. (EBDI) has not yet solidified plans for Phases II and III of relocation, which have been renamed as the project's "subsequent phases."

Concerns about unfinished relocation plans and rental issues make for an uncertain immediate future for residents, Gomez said.

"EBDI has no plan whatsoever for the next stages," resident Lisa Williams said at the meeting. "They admit to that because we had a planning session, and they didn't have a plan ready."

EBDI project associate Shanelle Shakoor reported that delays in cementing plans for the project's

subsequent phases are the result of not having funding completely secured.

"We're also still looking for which properties would be best to take in. We're not on schedule, but we're proceeding," Shakoor said.

Gomez said that one of EBDI's largest concerns ought to be securing the futures of the renters, who comprise approximately 50 percent of the community.

EBDI's redevelopment plan stipulates that renters will receive relocation compensation for between 42 and 60 months, in accordance with the Urban Renewal Act's requirement that renters receive supplemental money up to five years after relocation.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE A2*



PATRICE HUTTON/NEWS-LETTER  
At the Save Middle East Action Committee meeting on Monday, residents were informed of how much compensation they will receive.

## Changes to GRE postponed until fall 2007

Educational Testing Service says changes will affect exam scoring

By AMANDA DIOS  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) announced Feb. 8 that the implementation of changes to the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) will be postponed until the fall of 2007.

Dawn Piacentino, ETS Associate Director of GRE Client Relations, said, "We are introducing [the changes] because we are committed to a smooth transition from the current test to the revised version of the test."

Although the postponement is good for students who are rushing to take the current exam before its format changes, many are concerned about getting their scores before they need to submit them to graduate schools for application.

Matt Fidler, GRE program manager at Kaplan Test Preparation and Admissions, explained, "GRE scores are not going to come back quickly." Since ETS wants to get a large number of students to take the exam before finalizing the new scoring scale, the organization plans to wait until three groups of students have taken the new test before releasing the results and, subsequently, the updated scoring rubric.

Although Fidler acknowledged that the large amount of time before receiving scores could hurt some students, it's his opinion that, by doing so, *CONTINUED ON PAGE A3*

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## NEWS

# Plan for second, third relocation phases unfinished

Relocated residents voice doubts over compensation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

"These residents are on fixed incomes. They're not going to suddenly come into money. They'll probably have to move into more deteriorated neighborhoods than they moved out of," she added.

Resident representative to the EBDI board Donald Greshman agreed with Gomez.

"The renters are going to end up in shelters or homeless," Greshman said.

Resident James Johnson attended the SMEAC meeting in order to learn more about his status as a renter.

"If you're a renter, you get enough to move, and they pay you an amount of money up to a certain amount of time, but that's it," Johnson said.

The renters are the most vulnerable members of the community, Gomez noted.

"We found that the majority of households with children are low-income renters," she said.

"Not only are we putting the most at-risk group out in the cold, but also a generation of children on the streets, opening them up to crime and poverty."

However, Joseph Landers, executive vice president of the Baltimore Board of Realtors, said that in the case of the East Baltimore redevelopment, the renters are being well compensated compared to what they would receive if another organization were heading the relocation process.

"The renters are being given a pretty decent allowance," Landers said.

"If you look at this from another standpoint, forget that there's a project there. If a landlord gave renters a notice to leave, they'd have to leave within 60 days and relocate."

Possible relocation is a threat that renters in all scenarios face, Landers noted.

"You can go two blocks away

in East Baltimore and find families who are being relocated without receiving any benefit," he added.

Shakoor pointed out that EBDI offers family services including workforce development and job placement consulting. She noted that EBDI tries to get residents involved in these programs.

"We encourage residents to take advantage of these services as needed. If people are able to increase their income by taking on a job, that concern may be addressed," Shakoor said.

According to Gomez, one of SMEAC's goals is to encourage EBDI to increase the amount of time that residents are monitored after relocation.

"If EBDI is true to the rhetoric of benefiting the residents and true to eminent domain, the plan will have to include how to look after the residents even after two to three years," Gomez said.

Landers, however, said he doesn't feel that it should be the responsibility of EBDI to monitor the progress of the residents for that long after relocation.

"It sounds awfully paternalistic to me that somebody feels like somebody is going to watch over them for 15 to 20 years," Landers said.

At some point I think you'd expect for people to make some level of recovery on their own," he added.

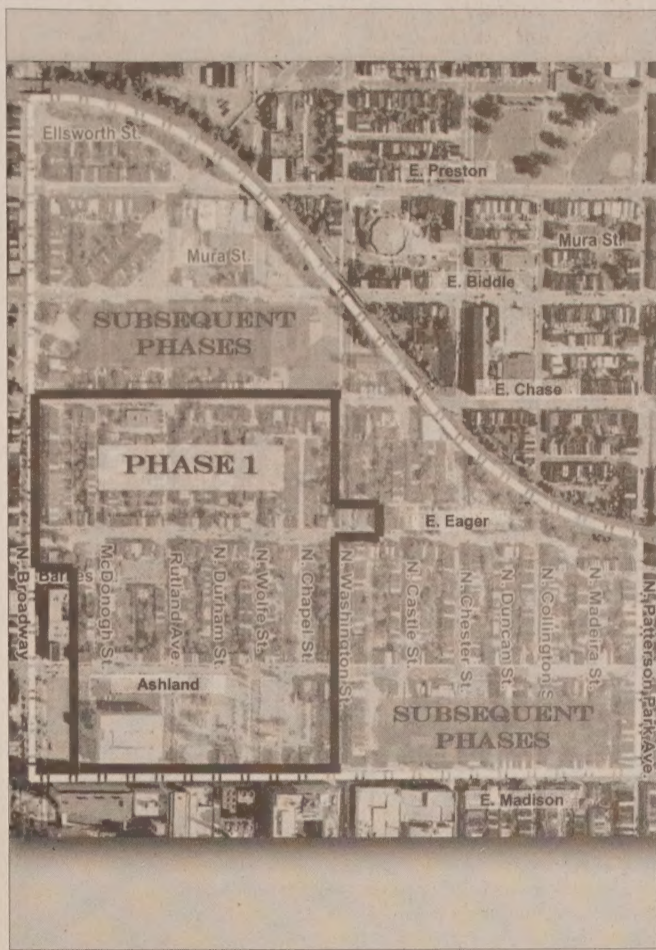
"Once the development is complete, will EBDI as it exists today even exist?"

Along with Greshman, Brody and McConnell sit on the EBDI board.

"In the relocation board meetings we have, the Johns Hopkins representatives aren't present. What Hopkins is trying to do is a hidden thing. If they're not there, they can't be blamed," Greshman said.

Greshman, along with other residents, continues to fault Hopkins for their forced relocation.

"Johns Hopkins is getting rich off the backs of the poor. But they don't call it Johns Hopkins.



COURTESY OF EAST BALTIMORE DEVELOPMENT, INC.  
EBDI has not yet cemented plans for the second and third phases of relocation.

They call it EBDI," said resident Vernon Blackston, who has lived in the East Baltimore area for 23 years.

"This project is a collaboration among many partners," said Hopkins spokesman Dennis O'Shea.

"Among those partners are Johns Hopkins, but also the residents of those affected areas."

"It's a collaboration intended to revitalize the area, and not for Hopkins' benefit, but for the benefit of the community," he added.

At the SMEAC meeting, residents also worked on developing a proposal to present to the EBDI board.

"Should EBDI decide that renovation rather than demolition would suffice for some properties in the area, residents want to have say in formulation of a plan," Williams said.

"Residents are looking at the types of houses and green spaces. We are going to present what the community wants to see," Williams said.

"I'm in Phase III, and I'd like to get a grant and bring my house up to the standards of the area," Blackston said.

She reported that due to EBDI's failure to solidify subsequent relocation/stages plans, she has been forced to "hurry up and wait."

# StuCo reveals details of grad. speaker choice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

body who would be interested. The senior class then takes that and makes a list. We make a list of anywhere from ten to 15 people."

However, in a list of the top 15 nominees, Elias Zerhouni was not present on the senior class' list of preferred speakers.

When the Office of Commencement was unable to obtain the most desired speakers, due primarily to denials from the candidates themselves, they reverted to the alternative candidate pools, namely University connections and alumni furthered by Lowres and Schyndman's former positions in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Schyndman said, "At most schools, the senior class does not participate in picking their speaker, and Hopkins has encouraged the senior class to participate."

Despite doubts, administrators and the senior class maintain that seniors will be pleasantly surprised with Zerhouni's talent as a speaker.

"Anyone who has ever meet Elias Zerhouni would say he is a great speaker — a great person with a great story who will make a great speaker for graduation," Schyndman said.

"I'm not surprised, but I feel badly, that some seniors feel that he won't be a good speaker — that if they didn't nominate him he won't be engaging. We've had some speakers that everyone knew who were terrible. Notoriety is no guarantee of an engaging speaker."

"Sometimes, not this class but

also in past years, the students select speakers who do not have a message to send, but instead are just celebrity figures," Lowres said.

Another issue that the senior class dealt with when selecting the speaker was funding, or lack thereof, because Hopkins does not pay any of their commencement speakers.

"When we asked Bill Clinton to come this year, he declined if we did not pay him \$100,000," Schyndman said.

Hillary Clinton, Lance Armstrong and Jon Stewart, who were all on the list of nominees, also declined, leaving reasonable doubt among students that Hopkins' policy of unpaid commencement speakers is a sound one.

However, Schyndman noted, "We believe that there are wonderful people out there who have a great message and do not need to be paid to convey it: Bill Cosby, for example."

Regardless of payment, Schyndman pointed out that it is very difficult to obtain a speaker who is a universal crowd pleaser.

"When Bill Cosby spoke some people were discontented with the idea of a comedian speaking at their graduation. When Al Gore came, Republicans on campus were unhappy with such a partisan speaker. It's nearly impossible to please everyone," he said.

"If you attend graduation you'll leave with a real message from Zerhouni. He came to this country with 300 bucks in his pocket; his story is an amazing one," Schyndman added.

## ERRATA

In the Feb. 9 article "W. b'ball wins it with rebounding," the final score of the Haveford-Hopkins game was 50 to 75, not 70 to 75.

# cresmont lofts

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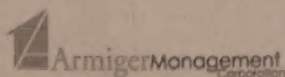
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NEWS

# Students, faculty upset over possible loss of Spelman

Director of Villa Spelman program resigns in protest; University plan still unclear

Continued from Page A1  
ication of the faculty who direct and teach in them."

The University maintains that the Villa is a significant financial burden, and when faced with other graduate funding needs, administrators are evaluating whether the Villa is affordable.

According to Falk, "The programs and the ongoing upkeep of the Villa require an operating budget of more than half a million dollars annually, the annual equivalent of approximately \$15 million dollars in endowment funds."

Although the University recently received a gift of \$100 million and has raised over \$2.1 billion in its "Knowledge for the World" campaign, the administration says that money cannot be used to further programs at the Villa because the donations are not stipulated for use at the Villa Spelman.

Provost Steven Knapp pointed out, "Most of the gifts we have received in the current campaign (or indeed in any of our campaigns) are restricted in this way; they cannot be used for purposes other than those intended by their donors."

According to administrators, continuing maintenance of the Villa would require a more than generous donation of money.

"Given the current budget situation of the School," Falk stated, "we lack the immediate resources to undertake the repair and renovation of the Villa and it is in danger of becoming unsafe and unusable."

Executive Director of Public Relations Dennis O'Shea also said that if the sale were to be made, "the Krieger School would



The Villa Spelman was built in the 15th century and developed between the 17th and 19th centuries into its current form.

seek a suitable venue or venues in Italy where it could operate programs without the financial obligations that go with ownership of a large Renaissance-era property in Florence."

Villa Spelman, which houses the Charles S. Singleton Center for Italian Studies, was given to the University in the early 1970s at the request of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Mather Spelman. The Villa Spelman, resting 700 meters from the Ponte Vecchio on acres of olive groves and gardens, houses a 25-year-old Ph.D.-level graduate

studies program and a more recently founded undergraduate program that enables students to live with Florentine families while taking classes taught by

visiting Hopkins professors at the Villa.

Selling the historic villa would put an end to these programs, including the annual Italian Studies Seminar.

Walter Stephens, who recently resigned from his position as director of the program, said, "This seminar, the heart of the spring semester graduate program, has for a quarter century provided a major forum for Italian, European and North American scholars, both established and in training."

However, Stephens said that he was unable to comment on the selling of the Villa: "Having resigned in my capacity as Director of Villa Spelman, I do not feel that I can make anything other than personal statements at this juncture, and personal statements would not be helpful in the present context."

"I think the administration should be allowed to speak for itself on this matter."

Senior Jessica Youdin spent her fall semester at the Villa Spelman, which she described as "something out of a fairy

tale."

She said, "What makes Villa Spelman unique is that you're with a small group of students in a very stimulating environment."

"I think that without the Villa, the program wouldn't have the same appeal."

A fellow traveler, senior Sun-hee Park, said, "It was an amazing experience, and there's nothing to explain how wonderful it was. I think it's a really good resource for Hopkins."

On the other hand, junior Matthew Bergman, who is currently studying in Florence through a New York University program, said his Hopkins friends have their complaints about the program.

Bergman said, "I am glad they are selling it. Every one of them [those at Villa Spelman] lives in homestays so far from each other that it makes getting together difficult and an inconvenience."

If the villa is gone, then the study abroad program will enable those who go to experience the city more."

# Changes to GRE test delayed until next year

Students concerned that late posting of test results will negatively affect graduate school application process

Continued from Page A1  
this, ETS will improve the exam. "I think that ETS needs to get a large sample to create and deliver the best test possible."

He recommended that, because of time constraints they might experience with the new test as well as additional modifications to which they will have to adjust, students take the GRE before the new one is administered, provided that they have adequate time to study for it.

Among those differences is the increase in length of the exam from two to four hours. According to Fidler, "You have to train your mind to take a four-hour test instead of a two-hour one. You also have to train your eyes to stare at a computer screen for that long."

Charles Alwakeel, a junior who took the GRE in November, is concerned that the waiting process involved in getting the scores back might not leave students enough time to submit their results to graduate schools for application.

"I know I left my GRE until the last minute," he said.

"If I didn't know my score, then that would definitely affect my choice of schools," he added.

"I knew my score on the spot, as soon as I finished, and that was really nice."

Joanna Hsu, a senior who plans on taking GRE in the future, said, "Compared to instant feedback, the waiting period ...

[will make] decisions harder to make."

"Just by lengthening the test," she continued, "it makes [it] seem more rigorous."

She expressed the fear that students taking the new GRE will not learn how to study for it in time.

"I'd feel more comfortable with an already established system."

Teresa Romeo, a sophomore, wasn't as concerned about when students will get their results back as much as she was about what's on the new exam.

"Expecting immediate scores on the GRE is nice," she said, "but that's not the thing that worries me the most. The content of the test matters."

Romeo is more concerned about how long the new exam will take.

"Extending the test for two hours and making it more or less difficult is nerve-racking, especially when you don't know what to expect."

Because Hopkins does not have an office or department dedicated specifically to advising graduate school applicants, students have to enlist the services of organizations like Kaplan to receive information on the updated exam.

According to the University, students seeking advice on the graduate school application process can make an appointment with the Offices of Pre-Professional Advising, Academic Advising or the Career Center.

# German dept. angered by merger of two programs

Students, faculty express frustration with Dean of Arts and Sciences over consolidation and loss of academic autonomy

Continued from Page A1  
partments.

"Our view is to consolidate the European language programs such that we are enabled to deliver the excellent level of undergraduate and graduate education for which the [School of Arts & Sciences] is known. The fact of the matter is that the configuration of departments must change in response to an evolving faculty as it has done so for much of the past 20 years," he added.

The Department of Romance Languages & Literatures was formed in 1999 following the union of the French Department and the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies. The merger brought about the addition of several more prominent faculty members as well as new European study-abroad programs for students.

Stephen Nichols, chair of the Romance Languages Department echoed Falk's message. "The fact that [the merger] will strengthen the combined language programs will allow us to offer the best language instruction possible at Hopkins and give us the wonderful opportunity to attract more faculty from Germany," he said.

However, the German Department has expressed protest at the decision, citing academic autonomy as principal to achieving its goals for the program.

"I have strongly and consistently advocated an independent Department of German at Hopkins which would continue a great tradition at this school in new ways. If the University has decided otherwise, my colleagues and I are determined to do everything in our power to maintain an innovative and robust German program within the excellent environment of the Humanities at Hopkins," said Ruediger Campe, the German Department Chair.

"A successful interdisciplinary work with other departments to which we are committed is dependent upon academic autonomy. That idea was and is our guiding line for providing a stimulating program to our undergraduate students and the

best possible basis for the careers of our graduate students after completing a Ph.D. in German at Hopkins," he added.

Graduate students in the German Department expressed frustration over the University's decision, saying in a joint statement, "Last year the German faculty and graduate students vigorously protested the merger of our department with Romance Languages."

We are disappointed and dismayed that the deans have decided to continue with these plans despite our reasoned objections. We believe that the merger with Romance Languages, a department which has its own very distinct strengths, would detract from our program, and would, in fact, endanger the reputation and integrity both of our department and of the Krieger School as a whole."

"The German graduate students are unanimous in opposing any such merger. We feel that the German Department currently has a very strong and vibrant intellectual atmosphere, with a unique focus on the intersections of philosophy, history, culture and literature. Through the current job search and other projects, we also have exciting prospects for realizing our future vision of German at Hopkins," they added.

Falk acknowledged objections that have been raised by graduate students, saying, "I have received comments from the graduate students and their worries are quite understandable."

He added, "I think the main concern is that this could be interpreted as a sign that the school is not committed to the program. I would like to emphasize, however, that this is certainly not true and that the change would be for the benefit of the students. I feel a graduate student's central concern should be the quality of the education being offered. [The merger] is merely an administrative change that will continue the wonderful collaboration between departments which the university already sees and allow for the growth and strengthening of the program."

# Class sizes increase as enrollment rises in Krieger

Dean of Undergraduate Education says University consciously recruits students for the social sciences and humanities majors

By AMY SHEERAN  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Rising enrollment, as reported by University figures, has made registering for courses in a number of academic departments increasingly difficult in recent years.

According to statistics made available by the Office of the Registrar, the number of students with a declared major in the social and behavioral sciences increased between Fall 2004 and 2005 by 147, while the number of students majoring in the natural sciences rose by 83 and humanities by 27.

Total enrollment in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences rose by 125.

According to Paula Burger, Dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice Provost, the University has been making a conscious effort to increase the number of students majoring in the humanities.

"We're trying to map our resources better," she explained. "Our strategy is to increase the number of students where we have faculty."

Many students, however, feel that the increase in enrollment has made registering for classes more difficult for majors in a number of departments in the humanities, like the Writing Seminars department, who can pre-register in person before on-line registration starts.

Emily Ethridge, a senior Writing Seminars major, said, "It used to be that everyone had a general understanding that you could register at 8:30, so if you really wanted to get into a class, you'd get there around 7:30."

But then all these freshmen and sophomores started showing up. People slept over in the Hut until 4 a.m. and then just sat

outside the [Writing Seminars] department."

Ethridge said she got into the courses she wanted to take because of her relationships with professors.

"Soon, [getting into classes is] going to become all pulling strings and making connections with professors," she said.

"I don't know what to do other than to hire more professors and make more classes."

Burger commented that the University did not have specific plans to hire more professors to handle the increase in enrollment.

"There are some areas where clearly if we had the financial resources we would expand the faculty we have," she said, naming the Departments of Political Science, International Studies and Economics.

She added that it was "especially difficult this spring" to get into courses in the political science department.

"It seems to me we just need more course offerings in political science - with that many majors," she said.

Registrar Hedy Schaedel, however, said that course offerings had increased over time with enrollment. "There has been adjustment all along, and we have been offering more classes," she said. "Over the years, there's been a gradual increase."

Associate Registrar Pat Coady said students who want to get

into a course should persevere. "If you're in the right place at the right time, you can get into the course," she said.

But because many seminar-style classes meet only once a week, students often encounter difficulty even after attending the class.

Sophomore Jessica Wolowski said she was refused entry into a course on the death penalty in political science even though she attended class sessions and completed the coursework before the add/drop period ended.

"I stayed the whole class, only to have [the professor] say at the end [of the add/drop period] that she's not letting any sophomores in," Wolowski said.

"I had to find another class, but it was at the last minute and there was nothing I could easily get into. And then I had two weeks of make-up work."

Wolowski said the two-week add/drop period, implemented last semester, made it difficult to work out her schedule in time.

Burger explained that the reason for the new add/drop period was "to get students to make up their mind earlier so other students could get into the courses they wanted to take."

She also said a new "student information system" that will streamline registration so that more information is available to students will be put into place next year.

There are some areas where, clearly, if we had the financial resources, we would expand the faculty we have.

— PAULA BURGER, VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

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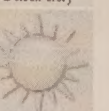
**Welcome**

This is the reference implementation of a student portal. We've taken great pains to integrate the portal into the existing IT infrastructure of Hopkins. To login, just use your JHED LID and password. While it's a bit light on services and features right now, we are working very hard to flesh out the services. Here are a some of the services we are working towards:

- **Student Service Integration** - at the earliest we expect to have some working channels in late 2006
- **JHEM Email** - we'll have single-sign-on with JHEM in the first quarter of 2006
- **JSHARE** - web files will be made available by second quarter 2006
- **Search Engine** - the existing search

**Weather Channel - Baltimore**

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**Johns Hopkins Events Calendar**

The Johns Hopkins Events Calendar ::  
Wednesday, February 15, 2006

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**A CANDIDATE GENE SCREEN FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA AMONG ASHKENAZI JEWISH CASE-PARENT TRIOS**

Start time: 12:15 PM Speakers: M. Daniel Fallin, PhD. Associate Professor,, Department of Epidemiology Campus: East Baltimore

# The Portal is here.

## http://portal.johnshopkins.edu

# Celebrate the University's Commemoration Day

## And Show Your Hopkins Colors!

### Wednesday, February 22

Join President and Mrs. Brody,  
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12 Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Levering Plaza - or Levering Lobby, in case of inclement weather

# WORLD NEWS

## News Briefs

### Outgoing Fatah gives Abbas more power in final session

RAMALLAH (AP) — The Palestinian parliament used its final session Monday to give President Mahmoud Abbas broad new powers, infuriating Hamas days before the Islamic group takes control of a suddenly weakened legislature.

The measures were designed to preserve Abbas' control over the Palestinian Authority, though it was unlikely to assuage international concerns about dealing with a Hamas-led government.

Hamas officials said they would immediately try to overturn the laws after the new parliament is sworn in Saturday.

"I think this session was illegal. It is a kind of bloodless coup," said Abdel Aziz Duaik, an incoming Hamas legislator. The new law "puts complete authority in the hands of the president."

Abbas' Fatah Party, which dominated Palestinian politics for four decades, was roundly defeated by Hamas in Jan. 25 parliamentary elections. Abbas was elected last year to a four-year term.

In their final session with a parliamentary majority, Fatah lawmakers gave Abbas the authority to appoint a new, nine-judge constitutional court, which would serve as the final arbiter in disputes between himself and a Hamas parliament and Cabinet.

The court could also veto legislation deemed to violate the Palestinians' Basic Law, which acts as a quasi-constitution.

Legal expert Issam Abdeen said the legislation would essentially give Abbas power over what laws the new parliament passed "since he is the one who appoints the judges of the constitutional court."

— Mohammed Daraghmeh  
The Associated Press

### Bush administration faces criticism from former FEMA director

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration on Monday pushed back hard against Katrina-response criticism leveled by ex-disaster agency chief Michael Brown and congressional investigators.

"I reject outright the suggestion that President Bush was anything less than fully involved," said White House homeland security adviser Frances Fragos Townsend.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff "unequivocally and strongly" rejected suggestions that his agency was preoccupied with terror threats at the expense of preparing for natural disasters.

Both spoke at a conference of state emergency management directors in suburban Alexandria, Va.

Their rebuttal came as a Republican-written House report blamed government-wide ineptitude for mishandling Hurricane Katrina relief. A report by Congress' investigative arm, the Government Accountability Office, reached similar conclusions and singled out Chertoff for delays.

Both Townsend and Chertoff took swipes at Brown, who resigned under pressure in September as head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"There is no place for a lone ranger in emergency management," said Chertoff, whose Department of Homeland Security is FEMA's parent agency.

Brown testified before a Senate committee last week that he issued repeated warnings to the White House and DHS the day the hurricane struck, Aug. 29, that levees had failed and New Orleans was seriously flooding.

He suggested that the White House and DHS had dragged their feet.

— Lara Jakes Jordan  
The Associated Press

### Danish gov't refuses to issue apology for disputed cartoons

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Denmark's prime minister complained Monday that his nation had been unfairly portrayed as intolerant in the international furor over the Prophet Muhammad cartoons, and his foreign minister said a government apology would be pointless.

After meeting with a newly formed network of moderate Muslims, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen called for peaceful dialogue to defuse Denmark's biggest international crisis since World War II.

"This meeting just testifies that the Danish government wants a positive dialogue with all groups in the Danish society," he said. "The way forward is peaceful."

However, critics said the network did not represent Denmark's estimated 200,000 Muslims and warned the prime minister could be heightening tensions by not reaching out to radical groups.

Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller told The Associated Press the government had no reason to apologize for the drawings first published in one of Denmark's largest newspapers.

"First, you cannot apologize for something you have not done," Moeller said in a telephone interview. "Second, nothing illegal has been done because no one has been found guilty by a court."

Protests against the cartoons continued, with Pakistani police firing tear gas on thousands of student protesters, Egyptian demonstrators calling for a boycott of European countries and hundreds of Palestinian schoolchildren trampling on a Danish flag.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said the conflict had united moderate and radical Muslims.

The Danish government has resisted pressure to accept any responsibility for the cartoons.

— Karl Ritter  
The Associated Press

## Suit claims budget law unconstitutional

By ANDREW TAYLOR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A clerk's mistake could mean a budget bill President Bush signed isn't technically law, but congressional Republicans said again Wednesday they have no plans to try to fix the problem.

Even though Alabama attorney Jim Zeigler has filed a lawsuit

charging the \$39 billion deficit-cutting legislation Bush signed is unconstitutional because the House and Senate failed to pass identical versions, House GOP leaders insist there's no problem.

"I believe that it's law," said House Majority Whip Roy Blunt, R-Mo.

Not so, says Zeigler, a Republican activist.

"An eighth-grader in civics

class knows that a bill cannot become law unless the identical bill passes the House and Senate and is signed by the president," Zeigler said.

The bill, which Bush signed Feb. 8, tightens rules for Medicaid nursing home eligibility to make it more difficult for those who have transferred their assets to their families or to charities to qualify for Medicaid.

Zeigler, who advises the elderly on eligibility for nursing home care under the Medicaid program for the poor and disabled, filed suit Monday in federal court in Mobile, Ala., naming Attorney General Alberto Gonzales as a defendant. Justice Department spokesman Charles Miller declined comment on the case.

House Democrats, accusing GOP leaders of abusing the legislative process, have asked for another vote. On the last vote Feb. 1, the bill passed by the narrowest of margins, 216-214.

At issue is a provision involving the period of time the government pays to rent some types of durable medical equipment before medical suppliers transfer it to Medicare patients.

The Senate voted for 13 months, as intended by Senate and House negotiators, but a Senate clerk erroneously put down 36 months in sending the bill back to the House for a final vote, and that's what the House approved Feb. 1.

By the time the bill was shipped to Bush, the number was back to 13 months as passed by the Senate but not the House.

The White House and House and Senate GOP leaders say the matter is settled because the mistake was technical and that top House and Senate leaders certified the bill before transmitting it to the White House.

## Cheney could face charges in accident

By MATT CURRY  
The Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — If the man wounded by Dick Cheney dies, the vice president could — in theory at least — face criminal charges, even though the shooting was an accident.

Dallas defense attorney David Finn, who has been a state and a federal prosecutor, said Wednesday that a Texas grand jury could bring a charge of criminally negligent homicide if there is evidence the vice president knew or should have known "there was a substantial or unjustifiable risk that his actions would result in him shooting a fellow hunter."

To indict Cheney, the grand jury would have to conclude that a reasonable person in the vice presi-

dent's place would say to himself, "I am not pulling the trigger because this other guy might be in front of me," Finn said.

The charge carries up to two years behind bars, but with no previous felonies Cheney would be eligible for probation, the former prosecutor said.

Manslaughter, a more serious charge, would require a prosecutor to prove Cheney was reckless, which would be "virtually impossible under the facts we know today," said Michael Sharlot, professor of criminal law at the University of Texas at Austin.

"With recklessness, the defendant has to be aware of the risk, but choose to ignore it. With negligence, he doesn't have to be conscious of the risk, but a reasonable person

would have been," Sharlot said.

As vice president, Cheney has no immunity from prosecution.

Mark Skurka, first assistant district attorney of the three-county area where the shooting took place, said prosecutors did not have an investigation under way.

"If something unfortunate happens, then we'll decide what to do, then we'll decide whether we're going to have an investigation or not," Skurka said.

If District Attorney Carlos Valdez decided to pursue charges, he would forward the matter to a grand jury, which would determine whether to indict Cheney. Valdez, a Democrat, is best known for his prosecution of Yolanda Saldivar, who was sentenced to life in prison for the 1995 slaying of Tejano singer Selena.

## Protests turn violent in Haiti over presidential election results

By STEVENSON JACOBS  
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Supporters of Haitian presidential candidate Rene Preval erected smoldering roadblocks across the capital and occupied a luxury hotel Monday. At least one protester was killed, but U.N. peacekeepers denied witness accounts that they had shot him.

As Port-au-Prince descended into chaos, Preval returned to the capital for the first time since the election Tuesday. He was the clear winner with about 90 percent of the votes counted, but supporters claimed electoral officials were tampering with results to prevent him from getting the majority he needs to avoid a runoff.

Barricades made of old tires were ablaze across the capital, sending plumes of acrid black smoke into the sky. Protesters let only journalists and Red Cross vehicles pass.

"If they don't give us the final results, we're going to burn this country down!" a protester screamed.

The election will replace the interim government installed after former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in a bloody rebellion two years ago. A popularly elected government with a clear mandate from the voters is seen as crucial to avoiding a political and economic meltdown in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation. Gangs have gone on kidnapping sprees and factories have closed for lack of security.

Preval arrived in the capital aboard a U.N. helicopter from his rural home in north Haiti.

"We have questions about the electoral process," he told reporters after meeting with the top U.N. official in Haiti and ambassadors from the United States, France, Canada and Brazil. "We want to see how we can save the process."

Preval also planned to meet with the interim prime minister and president.

Special U.N. envoy to Haiti, Juan Gabriel Valdes, said Preval wanted to ask the Haitian people to be calm and patient.

"He indicated to us ... that he wanted to call on the Haitian people to be peaceful and to be patient," Valdez told The Associated Press.

Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue appealed for calm in a nationally broadcast address. "People, don't stay in the streets," he said. "I'm asking you to go home. ... The transitional government is not stealing your vote."

In the middle-class Tabarre neighborhood, Associated Press journalists saw the body of a man on a street, blood soaking Preval's image emblazoned on his T-shirt. Dozens of witnesses said Jordanian U.N. peacekeepers in a jeep opened

fire, killing two people and wounding four. The body of the second victim was not seen.

"We were peacefully protesting when the U.N. started shooting," said Walrick Michel, 22.

U.N. spokesman David Wimburch first denied that peacekeepers fired any rounds, then later said they had fired in the air.

"We fired two warning shots into the air and we didn't injure

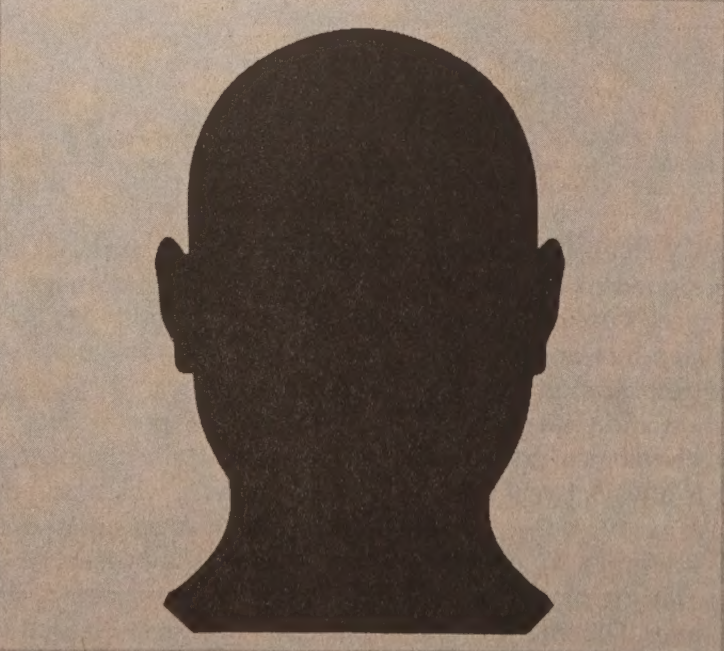
anyone," he said.

In the Petionville neighborhood in the hills east of Port-au-Prince, thousands of screaming protesters poured into the Montana Hotel, where election officials had been announcing results. U.N. peacekeepers armed with assault rifles looked on from the grounds and the roof. No violence was reported.

Protesters waving Preval campaign posters and tree branches jumped up and down in unison, chanting: "Now is the time! Now is the time!" Dozens somersaulted fully clothed into the pool, turning the water into froth as they splashed around — a rare treat in a country where most people lack running water.

Protesters stretched out on chaise lounges and ran past rooms costing \$200 and more a night.

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS  
NEWS-LETTER  
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Arrivederci!

The value of an excellent study abroad experience, which for some students can be truly transformative, is difficult to measure in dollars. However, the Krieger School's recent decision to sell the Villa Spelman, home of the Singleton Center for Italian Studies in Florence, attempts to do just this. After evaluating the cost of maintaining the unique site, administrators decided the Villa was too expensive to sustain and now plan to temporarily suspend the Singleton program while the search for a replacement site continues. Not only does the sale of the Villa mark the loss of one of the University's most popular study abroad locations, but the suspension of the program before an alternate site has been located shows poor planning and unfairly denies current students an opportunity to participate in the Singleton program.

According to Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Adam Falk, funds from the sale of the Villa will be redirected to raising graduate stipends and supporting other study abroad programs in Italy. Both higher funding for graduate students and for continuing Italian studies deserve more funding, but allocations toward these goals should not detract from another equally valuable venture. Sacrificing the Villa will only alleviate the problem of low graduate stipends in the short term, without contributing to a long-term strategic plan that will make Hopkins graduate stipends more competitive nationally. And while selling the Villa may make more funds available to other Italian programs, its disappearance may prove discouraging to students seeking a

study abroad program in Italy. The decision to axe the Villa denies Hopkins students of an irreplaceable opportunity.

The value of the Villa does not simply lie in its idyllic location or its beautiful architecture; it also functions as a representative of Hopkins in the academic community overseas. Currently, Hopkins has satellite campuses in Nanjing, China, and Bologna, Italy, both of which provide crucial avenues of intellectual exchange between Hopkins scholars and foreign academics. Students are not the only ones who benefit from such satellite campuses; professors also find such sites invaluable for new research and teaching opportunities.

At the very least, administrators should establish a contingency plan for relocating the Singleton program while the Villa goes on the market. They should prevent a period of program suspension that could cost this year's sophomores and juniors their chance to study in Italy while receiving academic credit. Finding another location — however temporary it may be — to house the program would save it from an uncomfortable limbo that could be detrimental to the professors and graduate students already enrolled in the program.

While the expense of the Villa's facilities is regrettable, administrators in the Krieger School should not forget that cultivating great study abroad programs is as important to students' academic experiences as any other expenditure. In acknowledgment of the Singleton Program's significance, administrators should establish an alternate location for the program before the Villa's final sale.

In need of a tune-up

Hopkins' new Web portal, myJohnsHopkins, is designed to consolidate all of the University's online resources. It is a good step forward in facilitating better communication between the administration and student body. As with most technological advances, however, there is always tweaking to be done.

The portal attempts to circumvent the poor design of the main Hopkins Web site. The main site's internal search function rarely turns up what one is looking for. In fact, most of the time it's easier to just directly search for the JHU page you're looking for on an outside engine like Google. The Hopkins home page is also remarkably uninteresting. There is no dynamic content, except the text-only headlines to the right of the picture of Gilman Tower that hardly ever changes. We are a cutting edge research institution, but you certainly wouldn't know it by looking at our Web site's aesthetic and organizational inadequacies. The portal is essentially a Band-Aid to the bigger problem of Hopkins' online disorganization.

The portal itself is not exactly a work of art. The interface is cluttered, and many of the features do not yet

function. Overall, the portal does not compare favorably to major portals such as Google Reader, My Yahoo!, or MSN.com, which offer more customized options.

The Hopkins portal does not accommodate "Really Simple Syndication" (RSS) feeds, which pull updated entries from user-specified Web pages. RSS feeds allow users to specify their favorite blogs, news sites and more. Any time these favorite sites are updated, the new information is displayed on the portal page. The Hopkins portal only has pre-defined feeds. These issues will hopefully be eliminated as the page develops. Once RSS feeds are enabled and the portal is fully integrated with services such as JHEM, Student Accounts and the Registrar, the new portal may really take off.

Still, the underlying problem is that Hopkins has a weak online presence. We need a better-organized and unified home page. It also wouldn't hurt for Hopkins' main Web page to have more visual elements and greater relevance to current events at the University.

Fixing all our Web maladies will take a complicated and likely expensive solution, not just a Band-Aid.

Eric Chung



LETTERSTOTHEEDITOR

A brighter future for campus housing?

This year, the housing shortage has been an issue for everyone from freshmen to seniors. Usually just an upperclassman lament, now the housing shortage is affecting freshmen too as more doubles are turned into triples than ever before.

I know several upperclassmen that live in both the Charles and Blackstone Apartments. It's good to see that the University has finally bought out those two apartment complexes, and it is imperative to have more housing options for upperclassmen.

The faster the University can convert these two buildings into student housing, the better. Unlike freshman housing where

everyone is in close proximity to each other, upperclassmen are spread out all over Charles Village. There isn't much of a sense of community, and I personally feel like it defeats the purpose of a college experience.

My only plea is that Hopkins takes a more lax approach towards enforcing certain University policies for those students

that are over age when it comes to issues such as alcohol. Looking on to my next three years at Hopkins, I sincerely hope that the University puts in as much effort as possible to have a tight-knit community and keeps erasing the dividing line between upper and underclassmen.

Paulo Farqui, freshman

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to [News.Letter@jhu.edu](mailto:News.Letter@jhu.edu) for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and can not be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

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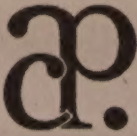
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# OPINIONS

*With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.*

## Senior Gift should go to community concerns

As the Class of 2006 looks ahead towards graduation, it has become our turn to take part in the traditions that accompany our last semester here: Senior Nights, Senior Week and the giving of our Senior Gift. In past years, senior gifts have ranged from café seating outside of the library, furnishings and games for the former E-Level and last year's stained glass window in honor of late members of the Class of 2005, Chris Elser and Linda Trinh.

This year, however, senior class leaders and members of the Senior Gift Committee have opted for change, deciding that gift funds should be divided among the Hopkins Fund, Blue Jays Unlimited, the Center for Social Concern's Tutorial

**Emilie Adams**  
*Guest Column*

Project and, perhaps most notably, Senior Week 2007. While I commend our class leaders for thinking creatively, the decision to donate directly to deserving causes and organizations merits a more inclusive focus.

Information distributed during last week's Senior Kick-Off event describes numerous destinations for individual donations. The heading "Where can your money go?" encompassed tailgating events, T-shirts for The Nest, and keeping the Senior Week tradition alive for classes to come (2007, specifically). While we are all aware that improvement and attention are needed when it comes to student life on the Hopkins campus, paying for next year's class to drink hardly seems like giving with a real sense of conscience.

At a university that has just received a \$100 million donation, it is clear that student life does not suffer from a lack of resources but rather a lack of imagination and consideration. Instead, our contribution, which is not expected to exceed \$12,000, could have a huge impact on local charities.



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Local organizations such as Health Care for the Homeless and Maryland Food Bank provide a wealth of services to residents in Baltimore and the surrounding area. Many local schools could benefit from books, art supplies, or even renovated and safe playgrounds. Opportunities to help abound, yet Hopkins students are often hesitant to answer the call to get involved. All Politics is Local events struggle to find audiences and many students graduate never having volunteered or with very little knowledge of the Charm City we've groaned and complained about for four or more years.

As I prepare to graduate this spring and look back on my time at Hopkins, I can't help but wonder what college would have been like in any other city. Perhaps bars would have been open later, and perhaps public transportation could have been more accessible. Still, it becomes impossible to separate my

memories of my time here from the city that has become my home away from home. From nights spent in Federal Hill to mornings spent at Pete's Grill, Baltimore has been the backdrop for unforgettable memories and friendships. For these and many more reasons, I cannot think of a better opportunity to give back than donating our senior gift to those organizations that sustain the community in which we live.

We go to school in a city with real problems. We do need to think outside of the box and included in this vision is a focus outside of the boundaries of our campus. Giving back to the University is a wonderful and longstanding tradition, but what have we done to give back to the city that hosts Hopkins students year after year? As relations between students and our Baltimore neighbors become increasingly strained, it is more important that ever to recognize the

community that surrounds us.

The Tutorial Project is by far the most deserving recipient chosen by our Senior Gift Committee. Providing after-school tutoring to approximately 100 Baltimore city elementary students each academic year, the Tutorial Project links Hopkins students to the outside community in a real and significant way.

The Senior Gift has granted us the chance to give back to our school and community in a thoughtful and important way. The money should be given where it has the greatest ability to impact and improve our community. Seniors, when you submit your donation to the gift fund, you are allowed to specify which of the four recipients your money will go to. I urge you to consider directing your donations to the Tutorial Project.

—Emilie Adams is a senior political science and history of art major from Potomac, Md.

## New Web portal will centralize Hopkins info

The Sheridan Libraries, together with the Johns Hopkins Information Technology department, recently unveiled a portal Web site, a central location where students can access information relating to Hopkins alongside regular Internet content. On this Web site, after logging in using a JHED login and password, students will find any special announcements, the weather and even the latest news updates.

One of the administration's primary areas of focus over the past several years has been improving communication between the administration and the students. Students often complain that they are unaware of events around campus or important deadlines, while administrators argue they send out all relevant information well ahead of time.

The problem arises due to a lack of centralization. As a student living in

**Atin Agarwal**  
*Guest Column*

the dorms, you have a campus mailbox, your mailbox for your own room, your jhu.edu email address and possibly a different primary email address. Because of this decentralized mess, students are being inundated with information and have difficulty seeking out the truly important and necessary details.

The administration made an attempt to centralize the information exchange this year by starting the JHBroadcast system. However, this system does not have strong enough content filters and thus many of these emails are being sent out so often that students have become immune to them, again missing important information.

My colleagues on Student Council and I try to limit our information delivery to the weekly e-mails. We understand, however, that students do not necessarily read all Student Council emails and that even if they do, it will often be several days after the relevance of the information we sent out has expired.

This is why I believe the portal will be a huge success. While some of the more extravagant aspects of the portal are still under development, the fundamentals are already in place.

One of the most important is an announcements box. Every time you log in, you will be notified of any relevant official announcements, including class registration deadlines, snow days or other emergency notifications. This announcements box will be limited to only the most important announcements; therefore, students won't miss key information amid a sea of concert and lecture announcements.

To promote group events or speakers on campus, there will be another box announcing these events. Because this box will be fully customizable, students won't have to wade through event announcements that don't interest them. Students can select which types of events interest them, whether they are cultural, political or scientific. Only those events that fulfill your preset requirements will be displayed. This events box will serve as a much more effective means of communication than plethora of flyers around campus that students often do not read. The site will also offer news updates, which will be customizable. Students choose which news sources they prefer, and there will be updated headlines and stories.

Some people claim that Hopkins is an apathetic campus and that getting students to come to an event that doesn't serve free food is a nearly impossible task. I disagree.

Hopkins undergraduates are as involved and informed about the world around them as any other college students. We have nearly 300 organizations on campus offering interested students the opportunity to contribute their opinions and resources to make this campus a better place.

This portal as it exists today is already a tremendous resource for students and is certainly a laudable effort on the part of the administration to improve its relationship with undergraduates.

As it grows in the next few weeks and months, the portal will prove to be invaluable for students. It will hopefully develop into the only location students need to access any information, whether inside or outside the Hopkins domain.

—Atin Agarwal is a senior political science and economics major from Monte Sereno, CA. He is the president of Student Council. The Hopkins portal can be found at <https://portal.johnshopkins.edu>.

## In supporting capital punishment, U.S. is in bad company

There are very few bastions of popular support for capital punishment left in the world (apart from the United States, of course). However, there are still a few.

For instance, in Southeast Asia people have very strong opinions on the matter: 80 percent of Thailand's population supports the practice of putting convicted criminals to death, for example. Amnesty International estimates that there are about 955 people on death row in the country. In Singapore, the international community puts its best guess at about eight (which, in such a small country, results in about 13.57 executions per one million people, according to Amnesty).

How many people are executed each year? Amnesty estimates that about 3,797 people were executed in 2004.

By now it shouldn't be a surprise who's responsible for such a bulk of government-imposed death (though that distinction in itself would normally range beyond what is classified as "capital punishment"): the People's Republic of China is responsible for at least nine out of every ten executions annually. Alongside it on the list of hall-of-fame offenders are such typical entries as Iran, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and, of course, the United States.

The question has often been asked: is this the kind of company we should be keeping? After all, the very same countries that top the list of capital punishment executions each year also claim the worst human rights violations and, worse yet, the seediest connections with ideologies and organizations that deal in political violence.

In this day and age, I would think we would want to avoid bearing resemblance to regimes so tyrannical and underhanded. These states not only qualify as egregious offenders of our most cherished fundamental beliefs, but they also garner such meritorious distinctions as being terrorism sponsors and card-carrying members of President Bush's "axis of evil."

But we are, of course, inevitably presented with the argument that the death penalty does more good than harm and acts as an effective deterrent against serious criminal behavior like murder, rape and drug trafficking.

Look at the statistics. None of these crimes has seen a substantial decline in frequency since capital punishment was reinstated in the United States in 1977. But if that won't persuade the average American, then what will?

The fact remains that not only is the

death penalty ineffective, it is often wrong. Or at least, those who apply it are.

Commonly available numbers cite at least two-thirds of death sentences overturned between 1973 and 1995. Of those convicted, 7 percent were eventually exonerated. Common sense would lead us to believe that, in a system that has so egregiously miscarried justice as to let O.J. Simpson off the hook, that number might potentially be higher.

It's less to do with how many people are getting put to death and more with *who* is being executed. There is something to be said for the fact that, in 2004, African Americans constituted nearly half the death row population in the

United States and only 13 percent of the general population. Could it be that the violent crime rate among African Americans is that much higher?

It's plausible – and I'm certainly disinclined to argue with statistics – but, *that* much higher? Or could it be that, in an inevitably humanly flawed system of justice, an inherent bias exists that might make it harder for white jurors to send white convicts to the chair?

There might be even more superficial reasons why the United States might wisely make the effort to ditch its switch-flipping fixation. In a time when we couldn't need a global image makeover any more badly, why not make the attempt to show off our more humane side (you know, they one we're always

**Sal Gentile**  
*The Public Record*

## Flavor Flav is the king of reality TV

We owe Flavor Flav for refreshing reality TV. He is a breath of fresh air for the genre that suffers from debauchery and cheesiness.

Before becoming a television star Flavor Flav was a member of the rap crew Public Enemy. He was what is called a "hype man," essentially a sidekick meant to pump up the crowd in anticipation of a show. His job required him to be loud, obnoxious and memorable.

This is why he was one of the first rap stars to get gold teeth. Because gold grills were so rare in the 1980s, Flavor Flav became a memorable hip-hop icon. His wardrobe choices also propelled him to stardom. He would wear loud colors in oddball combinations, and would often don Army camouflage shirts and pants. Most of all, Flav's greatness lies in his signature clock necklace.

Fast forward to reality TV and it is obvious why Flavor Flav is such a huge hit. He brings to the table a perfect mixture of obnoxiousness and unpredictability that avoids any sense of cliché. He doesn't try to warm your heart like a would-be *American Idol*. He doesn't try to make you laugh at perverse stupidity like the idiots in *Jerry Springer* or MTV's *Jackass*. He doesn't try to make you empathize with his daily troubles like *The Real World*.

Flavor Flav is simply himself. He can-

not help it. You put him in front of a camera and magic happens. His "Yeah Boy!" catch phrase makes perfect television. It is humorous, absurd and unpredictable.

He is a one-man show. Flav's different wardrobes rival the collective fashions featured in any production. In one scene, and likely in the same day, you will see Flav wearing an oversized bright orange jersey and shorts, and in the next he will be wearing his Viking helmet, complete with horns and studs. He might even

**Mike Huerta**  
*What It's Worth*

wear some oversized purple and pink sunglasses.

Usually reality TV requires some gimmick. It could be two families trading mothers, two neighbors trading rooms, a group of kids living together or a bunch of good-looking women competing for some bachelor.

Unlike characters in other reality shows, who rely on the show's producers to put them in some sort of interactive environment, Flavor Flav is his own gimmick. It started with his on-screen affair with his Brigitte Nielsen in VH1's *Surreal Life*. Flav is a short rap star who looks like he just kicked a crack habit,

assuring people we have)?

Shouldn't it be a shame to any self-respecting American that we have yet to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, simply because we have stubbornly and bewilderingly held steadfast to our sovereign right to executive juveniles?

I think it is. More importantly, I think we seriously need to reevaluate how we fight the ever-present scourge of violent crime in this country. If we're doing so by engaging in the same tactics as that of countries like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, who have well-known histories of sponsoring and perpetrating political violence, we've certainly lost sight of any goal we might've had in the first place. In the end, it just seems like we're fighting fire with fire – and getting nowhere fast.

—Sal Gentile is a sophomore Writing Seminars major from Holmdel, N.J.

and Nielsen is a fairly attractive, tall white fifty-year-old. This nonsense continued in *Strange Love* where he visited Nielsen's Italian mother and attempted to speak the language with gold teeth and a true American 'hood speech-slur. It continues today with *Flavor of Love*, where Flav uses his trademark clock necklace to tell girls vying for his love that "it's that time" to get off the show.

Flav means a lot for a genre which suffers from the *Miss America* syndrome – petty vanity and exaggerated antics. He never resorts to tricks intended for the camera or scripted behavior. He almost doesn't realize he is on TV. Watching Flav one gets the impression that whether you see him on TV or the street he will act exactly the same.

In a genre where images are ubiquitous and fame is fleeting it is easy to lose touch with the realism that likely launched your stardom. Flavor Flav seems to have avoided this pitfall, and maintains his street cred regardless of how much attention audiences pay him. It could also be that years of abusing crack desensitized his senses in a way that makes him unaware of his clout on television. But the likely scenario is that Flav remains genuine, and that his success lies in staying so.

Flavor Flav really is his own genre of reality TV.

—Mike Huerta is a senior applied math and political science major from Ft. Bragg, N.C.

# SCIENCE

## Can you find concentration in a bottle?

By **STEPHEN BERGER**  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The problems are familiar to most Hopkins students: too much work, not enough time and too little sleep.

In a school where all-nighters at the Hut are common, any extra boost can be a welcome advantage for the stressed and fatigued.

A good night's rest and a cup of coffee are enough for many. But others feel they need a greater jolt of energy to keep them awake and alert while they work.

These students may turn to prescription drugs such as Ritalin or modafinil, which have the potential to dramatically improve attention, concentration and memory.

The use of performance-enhancing drugs also presents ethical concerns. Some experts feel the use of concentration boosters, like steroids for athletes, may be unfair.

The effects of these drugs are often most severe the first day or two after taking the drugs. One may be hypervigilant and hyperalert for a short period of time, possibly a few hours or overnight.

It is unknown exactly how many college students take stimulants, which may also include Adderall, a mix of four amphetamines, and atomoxetine, marketed as Strattera.

One study, published last year in the journal *Addiction*, reported that almost 7 percent of American college students had tried prescription stimulants at least once.

This percentage was likely to be greater for white males and for residents of fraternities and sororities, as well as at more competitive colleges and universities.

Although students are often hesitant to admit use of stimu-



Freshmen Carolina Chen and Phillip Chuang focus on their studies at the library while preparing for an organic chemistry exam.

lants, anecdotal reports suggest that a substantial subset of Hopkins students have tried them at least on occasion.

Sophomore Sam Engler shared her experiences with Adderall, another stimulant commonly prescribed to treat ADHD.

She first tried Adderall, which she received from a friend at another campus, when she found she could not concentrate on an essay due the next day.

"I thought, 'I'm not going to be able to do this. This is not possible for me,'" Engler recalls. After taking one dose of Adderall, she was able to stay focused long enough to complete her paper.

Although the Adderall allowed Engler to focus, she feels it temporarily changed her attitude and caused her to write more poorly than usual.

"I actually felt humorless while I was on it," She added, "I felt my creativity was stifled. I

think I'm a better writer without the Adderall."

Engler credits Adderall with improving her concentration on a few other occasions, especially when faced with a large amount of reading or studying.

She does not discount the possibility that the effects of the Adderall were entirely psychological, much like the effects of a sugar pill.

Engler recognizes the potential problems of occasionally taking stimulants to help her focus on her work. Still, she leaves the door open for future use of Adderall. "I wouldn't be opposed to using it again if I had a lot of reading, but I wouldn't use it for a paper."

She explains that taking Adderall is a way to level the playing field a little. "That's my natural disadvantage academically, that I can't focus."

Many students were skeptical

about the fairness of using such drugs. Freshman Jared Saletin likened them to the use of drugs by athletes. "It's an unfair advantage; students who have access to these drugs would have something other students don't." He continued, "Every college student gets stressed, every college student gets tired, but that doesn't mean you have a medical condition."

Another freshman, Shivaani Prakash, argued along similar lines, "If you don't have a medical condition, why should you take a drug designed to treat a medical condition?"

One junior expressed some sympathy with the situation of those who take concentration boosters. "I know people who do it. Hopkins is a competitive atmosphere and I guess people can do what they want to get ahead. I don't agree, though. I don't do it."

## Joffe cautions students on risks of stimulants

The director of Health and Wellness shares his perspectives

Dr. Alain Joffe, director of the Student Health and Wellness Center on the Homewood Campus, explained how performance-enhancing drugs typically work. He drew attention to the fact that there are serious questions about the safety of these drugs and their use in normal individuals.

Q: How do such drugs work?

A: Most of these medications are stimulants, which increase activity throughout the central and peripheral nervous system. They usually work by increasing levels of neurotransmitters like dopamine and norepinephrine, a close relative of adrenaline, in the brain.

Q: What are the primary effects of these drugs?

A: The medications all improve executive functioning, so they help people improve attention. These executive functions include focusing, planning, and problem-solving.

Q: Who are these drugs meant for?

A: Stimulants are often prescribed for individuals with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD. Patients with narcolepsy or fatigue may also use them. When people without diagnosed ADHD take these drugs, they will likely experience an increase in their ability to focus on work.

Q: Most people believe concentration-boosting pills are generally safe. Is this the case?

A: Ritalin and similar medications are widely perceived as being safe, and they are. But when you start to use them not

under a physician's care, you open yourself up to problems. Most of these medications have not been studied as general-use stimulants.

Q: What are the dangers associated with a normal individual taking prescription drugs such as Ritalin and modafinil?

A: These drugs are designed to fix a deficit in attention, not to improve overall function for an average person. Normal individuals can get a boost [from these drugs], but it's not quite the same boost as someone with ADHD. These drugs ought to be used under a physician's advice to treat a disorder. Prescription drugs are prescription for a reason.

Q: What are some side effects of these medications?

A: They may cause drowsiness and long-term mental changes.

Q: Can these drugs interact with any other substances?

A: Drinking while on these drugs can also be dangerous. Alcohol acts to depress the central nervous system, so its effects counteract those of stimulants. With alcohol and stimulants you're going in two different directions. If you're going to drink, you might as well not bother doing a stimulant

Q: What advice do you have for students?

A: Try to avoid the need for stimulants by scheduling work in advance and tackle assignments in smaller chunks. Recognize your limits. You can only push yourself so far. Even on stimulants, the brain can only function for so long.

## When cosmetic surgery goes too far

When someone mentions cosmetic surgery, the first thoughts that pop into my head are Michael Jackson and *Dr. 90210*. In addition to shows such as *Nip/Tuck*, *True Life* and *I Want a Famous Face*, cosmetic surgery receives overwhelming attention from the media.

Topics commonly discussed include which celebrities have received plastic surgery or the relative ease of current procedures. And there is usually a buzz about the procedure du jour.

Today, incisions are often so small that it is nearly impossible to tell whether someone has received surgery.

In addition, many procedures do not even require incisions with the advent of laser surgery. However, does the media give an honest portrayal of cosmetic surgery?

Michael Jackson, needless to say, is an example of plastic surgery gone wrong. Yet, on shows such as *Dr. 90210*, it always seems that patients go under the knife and wake up looking and feeling great. Are such procedures really this painless?

After doing some research on the topic, it becomes evident that this is not the case. Pain can be experienced for up to a week with many procedures, and it can take anywhere from four to six weeks for swelling to subside after some surgeries. All too often, however, this is not accurately conveyed to the general public by the media.

The media infuses the public with a diluted and misconstrued image of cosmetic surgery. It is perceived as an activity for when one is bored or has time to spare. If you have an hour lunch break, go get Botox; or if you have an afternoon free, go get the bags under your eyes removed. Should cosmetic surgery be viewed so lightly?

The number of cosmetic procedures received by women increased 16 percent from 2002 to 2003, to nearly 7.2 million procedures completed. The top five procedures are liposuction, breast augmentation, eyelid sur-

gery, breast reduction and rhinoplasty.

This morphed view of plastic surgery keeps people from realizing the possible risks involved.

At the start of the cosmetic surgery craze that continues today, many see nothing wrong with traveling to Mexico to receive such procedures at cheaper prices.

The downsides are that the

**Julie Fierro**  
*Bioethics Today*

doctors performing these surgeries in Mexico may not have the same high-level technology or qualifications as American physicians and as a result, many complications can occur.

Faulty procedures may even require several follow-up surgeries to correct or restore an individual's appearance.

As is, there are many complications that may arise, including skin death, asymmetry, slow healing, or permanent numbness. Irregularities, dimples or seroma

(the collection of fluid under the skin) may also develop following breast augmentation, liposuction or a tummy tuck.

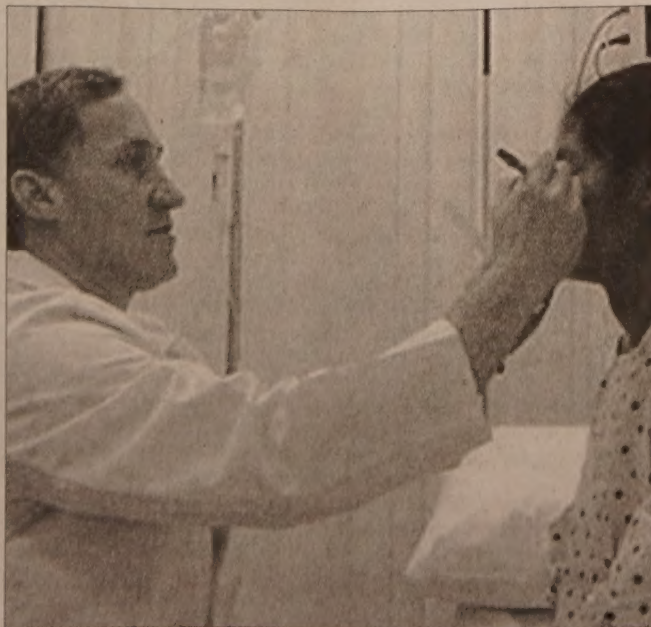
In addition, it is common to experience depression after cosmetic surgery due to stress from preparation for the procedure, dealing with others' reactions, or just general guilt from having received the procedure.

Don't get me wrong: Receiving cosmetic surgery has its benefits. It can improve one's self-confidence, which ultimately has very positive effects on one's life.

But the media's warped image of cosmetic surgery often downplays the risks that are associated with cosmetic surgery. It is not as simple as going for surgery one morning and waking up with double-D breasts the next.

There is a lot of risk at the time of the actual procedure as well as days, weeks, months and even years to follow. In some cases, not all of the side-effects of these relatively new procedures are known.

Look beyond the media for information on these matters; you may be surprised with what you find.



A cosmetic surgeon prepares his patient for plastic surgery on Fox's *The Swan*.



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# YOUR NEWS-LETTER

## IT handles computer troubleshooting

Technical Assistance Center offers free advice and services to students dealing with the frustration of computer failures

By **VISHAL CHANGRANI**  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Imagine this: You're sitting at your laptop trying to crank out the term paper that's worth 40 percent of your English grade. This semester, you've decided to give up procrastination and start the paper early.

You've just finished another page, and it's about time you called it a night. You go to press the Save button and out of nowhere, your computer crashes. It refuses your every command.

Technology isn't your forte, and the prospect of starting the paper all over again makes you want to curl up in the fetal position and cry. Luckily for you, all hope is not lost; Hopkins has a Technical Assistance Center designed for just this kind of situation.

### Services

Located in the basement of Garland Hall right next to the Registrar, Technical Assistance provides a variety of computer-related services for students.

According to Melissa Wisniewski, director of IT Customer Services for Hopkins, "Most students first come to us when they realize that they've been blocked from the Hopkins network because their system has a virus."

Technical Assistance helps get rid of viruses and spyware, and they can resolve software difficulties, RESNET issues, problems accessing the Hopkins wireless network and problems with JHEM (Hopkins E-mail) among other things. They work with all

types of computers, including Macs and desktops. If they can't solve your problem, they'll gladly refer you to someone who can.

"We try not to turn away any problems students may have, even if we can't help them directly," said Wisniewski.

### Priorities

Technical Assistance's number one priority is to get you back your computer as quickly as possible. The length of any given repair depends on two things: the problem and the time of year.

During non-peak times, most virus or software problems can be handled within 24 hours; other issues may take a few days or longer depending on whether or

not they have to send out your laptop.

However, during the first week of school or in the weeks before and after a major break, Technical Assistance is usually inundated with calls, and you can expect the above mentioned times to be slightly longer.

### Hopkins Mobile Computing Program

If you brought your laptop through Hopkins Mobile Computing Program (MCP), then Technical Assistance can also help with hardware problems; they'll even give you a loaner laptop if they need to send your laptop out for further repair.

Many students who participate in the program don't realize these immediate benefits.

Freshman Jay Vuitch, who bought a laptop through the MCP just this past summer, said, "It's reassuring to know that Hopkins has me covered in case something bad does happen."

Of course, if you're not in the MCP, don't spill coffee on your laptop anytime soon; Technical Assistance can't repair non-MCP laptops that have hardware issues.

### After Hours

Finally, even if you have a problem after their office hours, Technical Assistance still has a way of helping you. There are student consultants in the Krieger Academic Computing Lab who can help with software-related problems after 5:00 PM.

So, the next time your computer decides to go haywire, take advantage of the services Hopkins Technical Assistance has to offer. After all, why should you have to face the technology demons alone when you have bigger problems to fry — like that paper that's worth 40 percent of your English grade?



DOMINIQUE LIEU/NEWS-LETTER

The Technical Assistance Center helps students with their computer problems.

## Q&A your people

We are always rushing over one thing after another: classes, homework, papers, exams ... Amid the frenzy, it's so easy to miss those who work around us every day. How much do you know about the lady who makes burritos? Or the security guard who stays up overnight making sure you're safe in your building? Everyone has their own stories.

— by Jessica Begans



FILE PHOTO/NEWS-LETTER

Delores Parker greets every customer with a smile in the Wolman Depot.

### Interview with DELORES PARKER

The staff at Megabytes and the Depot might well be the friendliest people on the planet. You simply can't buy a Diet Coke without a cashier calling you Sweetie, Baby or Darlin'. One Depot cashier, Delores Parker, is renowned campus-wide for her ministering smile, soft chuckle and rapport with students. We sat down with Parker, a Baltimore native and 15-year Sodexo veteran, to talk about what makes her so happy.

#### What do you like the kids to call you?

Some call me Delores, and a lot of kids call me Miss D. It doesn't really matter if they don't call me Miss. [But for the record, you really should call her Miss!]

#### How did you get to be so friendly and cheerful?

The kids treat me so nice. I've never met a bad kid in 15 years. I still correspond with a few who live out of town now. And I feel happy! That sounds corny, but I really enjoy my job.

#### Where did you work before?

I worked at the North Charles Hospital, which I loved, until they closed. I was in dietary there; it was a nice job. I delivered the patients their meals and got to talk and interact with them.

#### Do you have a family? Kids or grandkids?

I have three daughters, two grandsons and two great-grandsons. My great-grandsons are 17 and 12. The 17-year old one is in college in Georgia. The grandchildren are 20 and 36. The daughters are as old as I am. [Laughter.]

#### What is your favorite part of the job?

It's all good. When I first come in I work Bag-It, which I enjoy, and that's just for 50 minutes, to give whoever's there a break, which I enjoy. And for the rest of the day I'm the cashier in the Depot, talking to the kids and managing. When it's quiet, I sing to me.

#### What do you sing?

Rod Stewart. My daughter just gave me a tape, The Great American Songbook [Volume II].

#### Is he your favorite singer?

After Rod Stewart, I like Frankie Blue Eyes. [That's Frank Sinatra for those who don't frequent enough Italian restaurants.]

#### Favorite movie?

I haven't been to a movie in years. Honest. Every time I see one advertised, I say to myself I'll go and see it, but I never get to go. Old movies on cable are enough for me.

#### Favorite TV show?

I stay on CNN all night long. Honest. I'm a news freak. I watch the Price is Right every day and the Young and the Restless on Monday and Tuesday.

#### Favorite book?

I hate to say this ... Do you know the Little House books? I loved them, I read them over and over again. I like the stories from English history, the awful kings and the queens. I enjoy biographies, and have quite a few of those.

#### What do you do when you're not working? Any hobbies?

I read. I've been to Charles Town with my cousins, and up to Delaware; that's to play the slots, you know. Actually, I joined a Pinochle club. It's a very challenging card game that's fun to play with partners. There's a group of us, ladies and gentlemen. We have a repast, and then we play. I find old folks have more fun than the young ones.

#### What were you like when you were 18 and 19 like the kids who eat here?

I was a bomb, too! [Riotous laughter] I had a couple of pictures that I brought in to show, and the kids couldn't believe it was me. They said, "Miss D had it goin' on!" I had lots of boyfriends, oh yes. I had fun.

#### What's the most amazing thing that's ever happened to you in your life?

I hit the lottery for \$13,000 in the early 80's. That's how I put the down payment on my house. That was nice. The number was 1313; I'll never forget it. I was watching channel 13 on television and decided to go play the lottery, and I walked around the corner, and that's what I did.

#### Do you have any advice for us young, reckless college kids?

I don't try to give young people any advice. That's why I like to laugh and talk. Advice — that's for the parents and the counselors. A lot of them go out on Thursday night, and I tell them to take care. Be safe, and stick together. You know, the guys are so nice. I like when they get dressed up; sometimes they look so grungy. When they look sharp, I say, "Wow! My, you look so handsome!" [The hidden piece of advice here is to wash regularly, get your hair cut and shine your shoes.] But I can't say one wrong thing about one kid here, or any of the kids I've known over the past 15 years. I remember one guy came back after he graduated to see if anything had made me mad yet, that made me angry. I said, "What are you talking about? No, no, you won't see that."

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3. *What a Wonderful World* (Louis Armstrong)
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5. *No Matter What* (Boyzone)
6. *When You Say Nothing at All* (Ronan Keating)
7. *I've Got a Crush on You* (Frank Sinatra)
8. *Hooked on a Feeling* (The Johns Hopkins All Nighters)
9. *In the Still of the Night* (The Johns Hopkins All Nighters)
10. *For Always* (Josh Groban & Lara Fabian)
11. *When You Say You Love Me* (Josh Groban)
12. *Fever* (Beyoncé)
13. *Love Me Tender* (Elvis Presley)
14. *Night Time is the Right Time* (Ray Charles)
15. *Ready for Love* (India.Arie)
16. *Collide* (Howie Day)

— compiled by Shervin Wang

your friday night



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Location: Mudd Hall  
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## SPORTS

# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## JIMMY VAN DANIKER, WRESTLING

# Mental strength is key for wrestler

By DREW LEFKOF

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Whether he's doing homework or leading the Hopkins wrestling team to victory on the mat, junior 133-pounder Jimmy Van Daniker understands how mental discipline has enabled him to achieve success. He noted that making weight, commonly overlooked by casual fans, demands considerable mental toughness.

"Earlier this season, for example, I had to cut seven to eight pounds per week in order to make my weight class," he said. "This was a very physical and psychologically tough experience to be going through."

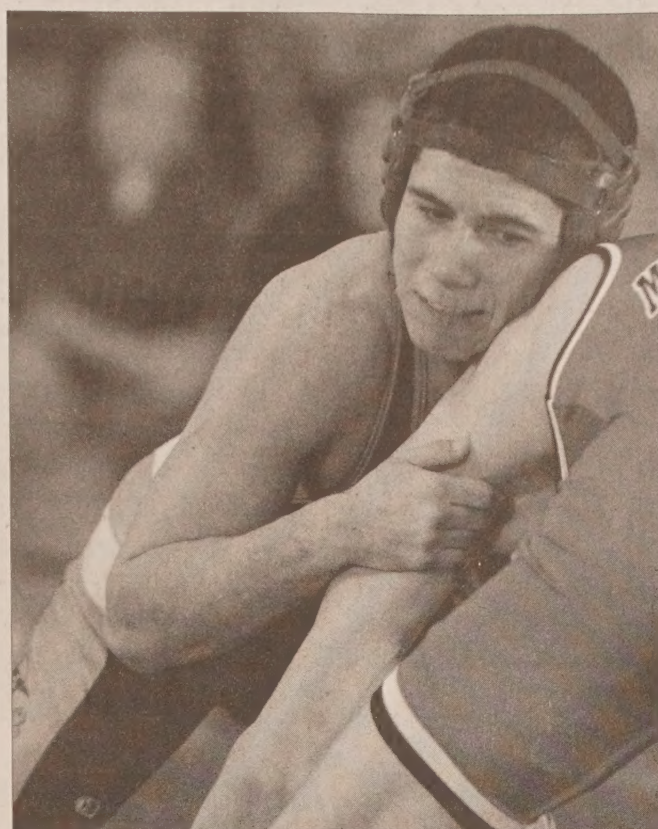
According to Van Daniker, the process involved withholding a considerable amount of food and water, in order to weigh in at his appropriate weight class.

"I would have to cut portions and fluids throughout the week, which gave me no energy in practice and made me feel sluggish throughout the day," he said. "I just had to deal with it and be mentally tough. Other guys on the team had to lose much more than me, so it's part of the game."

Van Daniker added that obviously mental strength remains a prerequisite for any success to be had on the mat.

"Most people don't know how tough wrestling is. It's physically punishing and it is also mental hell. It's being able to overcome certain amounts of pain and agony that most people can't deal with. That's all my coaches and my father have preached to me since I was in juniors," he said.

His latest victories at the United States Merchant Marine Academy last Saturday justify his earlier claims, as two key decisions led Hopkins over Stevens Tech 29-15 and USMMA 46-6. His play on



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

the mat successfully closed the Jays overall record at 8-7, while he strengthened his personal overall record to 10-5.

He said that both his 12-3 and subsequent 21-4 performances can be easily attributed to his mental focus.

"I was really wrestling the way I wanted to wrestle. I developed the confidence to beat anyone in the conference," he said. "I've learned that college wrestling brings a more even playing field with finer competition. I learned that it is in no way the same as high school wrestling."

In high school, Van Daniker noted that his travel to a specific wrestling camp with his team

helped strengthen how he approaches life on the mat.

"My teammates and I traveled to this one wrestling camp that turned out to be more of a boot camp," he said. "They had an acronym saying 'PTA,' which stood for 'Pain, Torture, Agony.' Between three practices per day, that involved morning runs in the mountains, I remember being the only one from my team who was able to make it through the camp."

He credits that experience for providing him with the skill set and focus to overcome hurdles that ultimately led to a state championship in his senior year.

"It's something I will never forget. Being able to be a state champ in my last high school match is something you never forget," he said. "The past two seasons I was runner-up — and second place is great, but it is nothing like first. I wanted it more and remembered what those past two car rides home were like."

## VITAL STATISTICS

**Weight:** 133 pounds  
**Year:** Junior  
**Major:** Public Health

**Hopkins Highlights:**  
Was named to 2005  
Scholar All-American team;  
10-5 overall record this season.

# Men's basketball falls from top of standings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12  
outstanding outside shooting from their seniors.

While the loss at Ursinus almost finishes any hopes the Blue Jays may have had at hosting the Centennial Conference Tournament, the loss could prove to be helpful down the road.

The Blue Jays currently are in second place in the Centennial Conference, and having a No. 2 seed in the postseason would allow for a potential match up in the tournament finals against Ursinus.

The key to beating the Bears in a post-season game? Sharafeddin said it's just a matter of doing the little things.

"We need to be much more focused," Sharafeddin said of a potential re-match against the Bears. "We need to do things like setting good screens, boxing out, hustling and making the extra pass. If we do these little things, it makes it that much easier to get good shots and play good defense."

Before the Jays can start thinking about the Centennial Conference Tournament, they have two important games. Wednesday night, the Blue Jays host Gettysburg, who handed the Blue Jays one of their three conference losses.

Finally, Hopkins will travel to Franklin & Marshall on Saturday to take on the Diplomats in their last game of the regular season.



TURSINA ABDUL-RASHID/NEWS-LETTER

Senior guard Jeff Thompson and the Jays lost to Ursinus, 89-66 last Saturday.

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# Track team is hitting their stride

With Centennial Championships next weekend, school records are falling at the right time

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

Top performers over the weekend included sophomore Pat Brandon at the men's 3,000 meters and junior Giselle Joseph and freshman Jordan Ireton, both in the women's 400 meters. With a time of 8:55.94, Brandon took 53rd among college athletes and qualified for ECAC Championships.

In the women's 400, both Joseph and Ireton established personal bests, finishing in 1:00.16 and 1:01.49, respectively. Joseph's time, which annihilated her previous best by more than two seconds, was good for 35th place among U.S. collegiate athletes and an ECAC qualifier. Ireton, 60th among college athletes, set a new freshman mark.

"I actually thought I ran a lot slower," said Ireton, "but I ended up with a school record."

Van Allen lauded Brandon's performance.

"Pat Brandon became the first individual qualifier for ECACs on the men's side," said Van Allen. "I think he gets overshadowed a lot because of the conference we are in, but Pat has emerged as one of the top runners in the region."

Brandon, though, was understated. "I accomplished what I came to do," he said.

Other top performances on both the men's and the women's sides in Boston included junior Jason Dubyoski in the 200-meter dash and freshman Rachel Hogen in the mile. Dubyoski's time of 23.26 was good for 65th among U.S. collegiate runners and the second-fastest time in Hopkins program history. Hogen earned a freshman record and 38th among

collegians with a mile time of 5:21.88.

On Monday, Feb. 13, more members of the Blue Jays squad traveled to Pennsylvania to compete at the Haverford Quadrangle. The Jays continued their stellar performances, especially on the women's side. Ireton tried her hand (or foot) at a new event, the 200 meters. She responded better than anyone could have anticipated, setting a school record with a time of 27.22, beating the previous mark by 0.4 seconds. Also setting a new school record was senior Lolo Emuh in the long jump. Her mark of 5.15 meters (16'10.75") beat the old distance of 4.97 meters.

Also strong for the women

were freshmen Lauren Chun, winning the pole vault with a height of 3.04 meters (10'), and Amarich Onyima, taking the top spot in the shot put with a throw of 11.62 meters (38'1.5").

For the men, freshman Matt Trachtenberg took first in the pole vault, clearing 4.19 meters (13'9"), which beat his own freshman record. Also excelling were sophomore Tristan Thomas, finishing second in both the 55-meter dash (6.70) and the 200 (23.87), and junior Jason Chiang, who took second in the 3,000 (9:18.81).

The Jays now have a week off to prepare for the Centennial Conference Championships, which will be hosted by Ursinus starting Feb. 25. If recent performances are any indication, Hopkins should keep getting better at just the right time.

"Our team has worked hard to reach that [peak] level," said Van Allen, "and I think we're going to surprise a lot of teams at this year's conference championships."



COURTESY OF ANDREW BAUERSCHMIDT

Sophomore Pat Brandon qualified for the ECAC Championships in the 3,000 meters.

## SENIORS:

### 2006 Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts

The deadline for the Sudler Prize, which carries a \$1,500 cash award, is FRIDAY, MARCH 10.

The Sudler Prize is awarded to recognize excellence in performance, execution, or composition in one of the arts. These include, but are not limited to, music, theater, dance, fiction, poetry, painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, film, or videotape.

To be eligible, you must be a senior in good academic standing and with sufficient credits to receive a degree at commencement in May 2006.

To compete for the Sudler Prize, submit 10 copies of the following to Julia Morgan, Sudler Prize Committee Chair, President's Office, 242 Garland Hall: (1) a completed application form; (2) a letter of recommendation from a Hopkins faculty member familiar with your work; (3) at least two examples of work done while you were a Hopkins student.

Additional information and the application form can be found at

<http://getintothearts.jhu.edu/sudlerprize/index.html>.

If you have any questions, contact Ms. Morgan at (410)516-4013 or [jmorgan@jhu.edu](mailto:jmorgan@jhu.edu).

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## SPORTS

# I fantasize about men in tight pants, OK?

I am not an athlete. I have never been an athlete. Barring a few injections of "flaxseed oil" in an Oakland bathroom, I will never be an athlete. The most athletic moment of my life came in high school when I, the sacrificial 119-pounder on the wrestling team, beat a kid with a huge tattoo. (A side note: if you're a wrestler and you're going to get a huge, tough-looking tattoo that everyone is going to see when you wrestle, don't let someone like me beat you).

But I digress. What I'm trying to say is that I love sports, but that love is tested when I'm called on to actually play sports. My little league career was like asking Pauly Shore to play Hamlet. You get the idea.

But there's a place for people like me, a place where fans can interact with the sport they love and live vicariously through the athletes they wish they were without the hassle of restraining orders. It's a place where the disparate worlds of sports and nerd shut-ins collide. Not surprisingly, that place is on the Internet.

Welcome to fantasy sports, the fantasy in which I'm not afraid or ashamed to involve Junior Spivey and Coco Crisp. Fantasy sports leaves in everything that I love about sports and takes out everything I hate, specifically playing them.

For the uninitiated, fantasy sports are online games where you are the general manager of your own team, drafting and/or signing players to compile a team that competes against other fantasy teams. The players' actual, real-life stats are accrued and totaled to see which team is leading which statistical category. For example, if your fantasy baseball league uses the "unnatural head growth" stat and you draft Barry Bonds, you're in good shape.

For me, the appeal is obvious: there is no better way for a nerd to appreciate sports. Fantasy involves everything we sports nerds are good at — researching, crunching numbers, formulating strategies and sitting in front of the computer for hours without any substantial human contact. It's perfect.

My particular poison is fantasy baseball. I've always found baseball to be uniquely gripping. The tense moments are the static ones, unlike the kinetic tension of football — I call it the potential energy of sports. The marriage of the team sport and the individual pitcher-versus-batter duel is seamless. The game's evolution has been so vast since the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first professional team in 1869 that if anyone were to watch one of their games, they might not think it was baseball. Yet many rules and terms have not only withstood the test of time, but also integrated themselves into our vernacular. We at Hopkins have a "three strike" policy. We take "rain checks"

when we have to cancel dates. We're on the "home stretch" if we're reaching the end of a project. Some of us have even gotten to "second" or even "third base" with a member of the opposite sex.

And the stats. Baseball has been stat-obsessed since Henry Chadwick, arguably the first sportswriter as we know them today, invented the box score,

earned run average (ERA) and batting average. Since then, baseball has endeavored to answer a question that pervades not only baseball, but nearly every profession: How do you quantifiably measure talent? People in the last 25

years have devoted their lives to devising new and more telling baseball statistics. Ask any baseball fanatic about VORP or Win Shares and you'll see the impressive science and methodology behind the stats.

Fantasy sports give even the most casual fan the opportunity to answer that same question and do exactly what his favorite team and every other team has to do: with the same available parts, make the best finished product. It's a goal that speaks to our engineering, innovating spirit, channeled through the sports we love. Just about every professional sport (yes, even bass fishing) has a corresponding fantasy game with the same goal at heart.

Fantasy sports also teach important skills that can be implemented in the comparative horror that is real life. Each league operates like a market. Starting with nothing, I run my fantasy team like I would run a business. I determine which characteristics I value (e.g. power hitters, strikeout pitchers, etc.), which characteristics are overvalued in the market and which are undervalued. With making trades, I have to get inside my trade partner's head. What does he value more than I do? What do I value more than he does? If I have the better business model, I'm going to get the better end of the trade. I constantly refine my model and force myself to make tough decisions, practices which have allowed me to win most of the leagues I've participated in.

Which brings me to the next thing I love about fantasy sports: macho posturing. Put-downs are such an endemic part of the game that my host site of choice, Yahoo!, has added a "recent smack talk" symbol that can appear next to your team's name.

I get to act like a big, tough man while being neither big nor tough and approximately 75 percent of a man. With that in mind, and with pitchers and catchers starting to report to spring training, I challenge anyone, anyone, to take me on in my fantasy baseball league. E-mail me at ZGoodNJ@hotmail.com for instructions on how to join, sign up and come baseball season, I will beat you. Even if you have a tattoo.



**Zach Goodman**  
*Sports for Nerds*

**I get to act like a big, tough man while being neither big nor tough and approximately 75 percent of a man.**

# Wrestling to host Centennial tourney on Sat.

By JASON FARBER  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

If there's anything to be learned from the sixth-seeded Pittsburgh Steelers' Super Bowl season, it's this: the end of the season is the only part that matters. The Steelers won the last four games of the regular season to barely clinch a spot in the playoffs and then amazingly rattled off three-straight road victories to get to the championship game in Detroit.

The Hopkins wrestling team must have been paying attention. With two victories against Centennial foes Stevens Tech and the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) on Saturday, the Blue Jays finished their season with five consecutive wins.

The Jays will host the Centennial Conference Championships this Saturday, and their 8-7 overall record belies their recent success on the mats.

"I was real happy our performance. We had a strong showing by the whole team this weekend," Head Coach Keith Norris said. "I hope to keep that momentum rolling into the Centennial Conference Championship this weekend at Hopkins."

Hopkins finished the season with a 5-2 Centennial record, with the two losses coming against Ursinus and Muhlenberg, two of the top teams in the conference. The following week, the Blue Jays pulled off a blowout win against last-place Gettysburg to start their winning streak. After the win against Gettysburg, the Jays



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman Vince Domestico will be taking his fourth-highest win percentage among conference heavyweights to Centennials.

won a thriller at home against McDaniel, a team that they hadn't beaten in over ten years.

In terms of morale, the win over McDaniel was definitely a turning point for Hopkins.

"I'd say we are one of the hottest teams in the conference right now, coming off two decisive wins and closing the year with a winning record," junior 133-pounder Jimmy Van Daniker

said. "We've put in a lot of hard work since early September and with the season winding down, this is where it all comes out and we get rewarded."

Against Stevens Tech, the Jays started off with a forfeit win by freshman 125-pounder Michael Sumner, and then Van Daniker won a major decision over Mark Bistis to put Hopkins ahead, 10-0.

The Blue Jays then got another two wins by junior 141-pounder Marco Priolo and sophomore 149-pounder Jim Crumlish to jump out to a 17-0 lead. Hopkins suffered losses in the 157- and 165-pound weight classes, but then got three straight wins by senior 174-pounder Dave Kraus, sophomore 184-pounder Eric Fishel and freshman 197-pounder Tyler Schmidt. Hopkins lost by forfeit in the heavyweight division to finish out the match with a 29-15 victory.

The Jays got an even more impressive win against USMMA later in the day, winning every weight class except heavyweight in the decisive 45-6 victory.

Hopkins started off the match with another forfeit in the 125-pound class and another major decision by Van Daniker. Priolo won by forfeit, and then Crumlish pinned USMMA's 149-pounder Anthony Day just 1:25 into the match to win by fall. The Jays got another six points from freshman 157-pounder Avi Dunn, who pinned Matt Williams in just 44 seconds.

After Floyd won by forfeit, Hopkins received two shutouts from Kraus and Fishel, which put the Blue Jays ahead, 42-0. Schmidt got the last win for the Jays on the day, and after junior heavyweight Jonathan Freeman was pinned, the final score of the meet was 46-6.

"I think it's been our best year in the conference since I've been here," Van Daniker said. "We have a lot of young and veteran talent which is going to make us even better next year."

Adding to the Blue Jays recent momentum will be the fact that they are hosting the Centennial Conference Championships this Saturday.

"Everyone is really excited about hosting the conferences at Hopkins this year," said Van Daniker. "I think we will feed off the crowd energy at our home gym, similar to the way we did in our upset of McDaniel."

Hopkins has several wrestlers sitting atop the Centennial rankings in their weight class, most notably Priolo and Kraus, who both have 6-1 conference records, and Fishel and Schmidt who are both 5-2.

"I believe, and the coaches do as well, that we have five or six legitimate shots at individual titles," Van Daniker said.

The conference championship tournament begins at 10 a.m. at Goldfarb Gymnasium.

# Clutch free throw shot sinks women's b'ball

Blue Jays will face Muhlenberg in opening round of the Centennial Conference Tournament

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12  
of our development and in terms of our game intelligence. We'll be ready for it."

Saturday's game against Ursinus began like so many other games for the Jays, in which the opposing team had jumped out early to grab the lead, only to have a Blue Jay barrage of baskets turn the tide and help the Jays seize the victory.

The Bears indeed were able to make the first few baskets and take an early lead in the contest. Ursinus College junior forward Mary Kate Daley paced the Bears' attack with a game-high 22 points, including a lay-up with less than six minutes remaining in the half that helped her reach the 1,000-point career mark.

The Jays, however, climbed back into game with a quick run punctuated by senior guard/forward Katie Kimball's jump shot with 3:41 left in the first half, putting Hopkins in front 21-20.

"She has actually realized some of her potential as a scoring threat," Funk said of Kimball. "Her quickness, defensively, pays off for her because she is usually playing and defending a smaller player, which allows her to use her quickness to get her hands on a lot of passes and block a lot of shots."

The Blue Jays fell behind 25-23 before freshman guard Caitlin Sloane connected from behind the arc with less than a minute to go in the first half. Sloane's three would close the scoring for the half, lifting the Jays to a 26-25 lead going into intermission.

The Blue Jays played brilliantly to open the second half. Senior guard Katie O'Malley and junior forward Julie Miller both drained threes to begin the half. The Jays' momentum was manifested by a



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman guard Caitlin Sloane scored three points in the Jays' close loss to Ursinus.

17-4 run which brought the score to a 43-29 Hopkins lead.

The Bears, however, were not ready to surrender, even as the Blue Jay buckets continued to accumulate. The Bears countered with their own surge, outscoring the Jays 15-1 to knot the score at 44-44 at the 7:30 mark.

"Our defense broke down," Funk said. "We were giving them too many good looks and too many second chance points."

The teams traded baskets un-

til Kate McMahon of Ursinus hit the free throw that gave the Bears a lead they would never relinquish. The free throw put the Bears up 53-52 and would close all scoring for the night.

The Blue Jays return to action this Sunday against Centennial Conference foe Franklin and Marshall College at 2:00 p.m. in Goldfarb Gymnasium. The game will be the last regular season contest for the Jays before the Centennial Conference Tournament, which begins next Wednesday evening.

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# SPORTS

## Did You Know?

Basketball coach Jimmy Valvano, who famously led North Carolina State to an upset victory in the 1983 NCAA Championships against Houston, began his college coaching career at Johns Hopkins. In 1968-69, he coached the Blue Jays to their first winning season in 24 years.

## CALENDAR

SATURDAY

Wrestling (Conference Tourney) 10 a.m.

SUNDAY

W. Basketball vs. F &amp; M

2 p.m.

## Ursinus knocks m. b'ball out of first place Free throw stops Jays' winning streak at eight

By JOHN MONAGAN  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

With a chance to solidify a No. 1 seeding and home court advantage in the Centennial Conference Tournament, the Hopkins men's basketball team came up empty in a road trip to Ursinus on Saturday.

The Bears, who pulled out of a first-place tie with the Blue

Jays in the 89-65 dismantling, were led by senior All-American point guard Mike McGarvey. McGarvey, who has been a nuisance to Blue Jays teams in the past, netted 20 points to lead six double-digit scorers for Ursinus.

The Blue Jays (17-5, 13-3) were faced with a hostile environment, as Helferrich Hall in Collegeville, Pa., was filled to capacity for the Senior Day Centennial Conference match up.

Honoring their five seniors, the Bears were given an emotional lift and an early mental edge with the celebration of their seniors' four years of service to the team.

First place was on the line, it was their seniors' last game and the Bears came to play, while the Blue Jays could not live up to the high emotional standards set by the home team.

"It was their senior day, and we couldn't match their intensity," said guard Bobby Sharafeddin, one of two Blue Jays seniors. "It is fun to play in an environment like they had, but we just couldn't compete with their energy. We didn't play even close to a complete enough game to win."

Hopkins came out in a zone defense in the game, a very unusual strategy for head coach Bill Nelson's teams. The Blue Jays, who primarily play man-to-man defense, were slow getting to the Ursinus guards, who shot extremely well from the outside.

This lack of defensive pressure forced the Blue Jays into early holes of 8-0 and 11-2. In front of the rowdy Bears crowd, it was the worst possible scenario for the visiting team.

McGarvey, who also had nine assists, was joined by fellow senior Nick Shattuck on the stat sheet. Shattuck gathered seven assists and three steals to go with his 18 points. Senior Brian McEvilly also had 12 points and five assists.



TURSINA ABDUL-RASHID/NEWS-LETTER  
Junior center/forward Matt Griffin had 21 points and six rebounds against Ursinus.

The Blue Jays were led by their consistent set of junior forwards, Matt Griffin and Dan Nawrocki. Griffin had 21 points, while Nawrocki had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Hopkins was able to narrow the first-half margin to five at 17-12 after trailing 11-2, but that was the closest the Blue Jays would be the rest of the game. The Blue Jays were simply not able to match the effective team play of the Bears and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10

By DAVID NGUYEN  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

It is an exhausted routine that transpires on every driveway with a basketball hoop: a tied game, only seconds to spare, and a free throw that could win it all. One player, one shot, one chance.

Unfortunately for the Hopkins women's basketball team, Ursinus College junior guard Kate McMahon made that shot to put the Bears in front 53-52 with only 29 seconds remaining on the clock last Saturday.

The Bears would hold on to upset the Centennial Conference-leading Blue Jays, snapping Hopkins' win streak at eight games.

This is the first time the Blue Jays have been beaten since Jan. 14, when the Jays suffered their first conference loss to Muhlenberg College, who presently sits half a game back in the conference standings. If Muhlenberg is able to close their schedule with four straight wins against four Centennial Conference opponents, the Mules may have a chance of hosting the Centennial Conference. These potential victories would help Muhlenberg

surpass Hopkins in the conference standings, as they would have a better conference record.

Muhlenberg's home-field advantage has been truly their "sixth man" this year, as the Mules have won all 11 games they have played at home.

The Blue Jays will be ready for the challenge of playing away at Muhlenberg.

"We'll be a better team when we head into conference cham-

Our defense broke down. We were giving them too many good looks and too many second chance points.

—HEAD COACH NANCY FUNK

pionships," head coach Nancy Funk said. "We didn't shoot well against their pressure the last time we were there. We tended to rush and our shot selection was poor. I think, as a team, we have come a long distance since that time in terms

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

## INSIDE

Wrestling ends season with a winning streak

Zach Goodman's fantasy, the one with the men

Van Daniker picks up two decisive wins

With victories over Centennial rivals Stevens Tech and the United States Merchant Marine Academy, the Blue Jays finished their regular season with five consecutive wins. Page A11.

Sports editor Goodman delves into the world of fantasy sports, complete with innuendo. He thinks his fantasy is best and has issued a challenge for anyone to prove him wrong. Page A11.

Junior 133-pounder Jimmy Van Daniker is our Athlete of the Week after a pair of dominating performances during last weekend's Centennial Conference contests. Page A10.

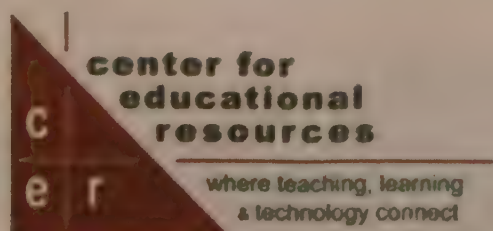
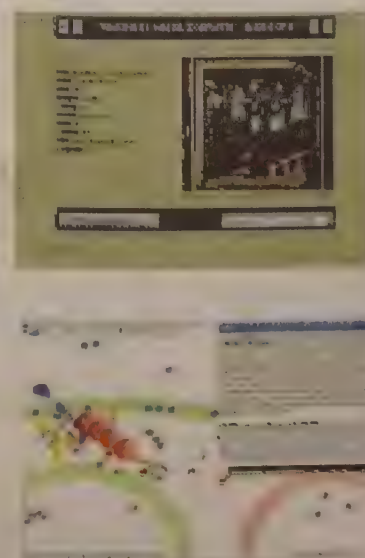
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DECISIONS BY EARLY APRIL

## 2006-2007 Technology Fellowship Program

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- How:** applications may be accessed & submitted online via <http://www.cer.jhu.edu/techfellows>
- When:** applications accepted **January 23 through March 3, 2006 at 5:00 PM**; awards announced early April 2006; funding available June 2006 through May 2007
- Questions:** Contact Cheryl Wagner, 410.56.7181, [cwagner@jhu.edu](mailto:cwagner@jhu.edu)



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# THE B SECTION

Focus • Features • Arts & Entertainment • Calendar • Cartoons • Photo Essay

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

## The Housing Focus

### High-rise life

By MELISSA ARTNAK  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Though the policies, they are a-changin', living off campus is still one of those perks that goes hand in hand with being an upperclassman.

The overwhelming opinion among upperclassmen is that, despite some of the real-world stresses that come with being a tenant, the good aspects of living in an apartment outweigh the bad ones.

It's not difficult to find an available apartment. Sure, the earlier you start looking, the more likely it is that you'll get a spot in the building with the most convenient location, best maintenance staff and biggest living room.

If you're really set on a particular building, talk to friends who are graduating and see if their building allows for a "handing down" of the lease — basically, you'll just tag along when your older friend doesn't sign the contract for another year's lease, and then you'll fill out the paperwork to become the new tenant of that room.

But even the procrastinators end up living somewhere. For the first month or two that you're living in your new, uh, crib, there are a slew of apartment-related things you'll need to do.

A few days before you move in, you'll need to call BGE (Baltimore Gas and Electric) and set up an appointment for them to come get your utilities kickin'. Far too many people forget about this important step and end up literally living in the dark for the first few days.

You'll also need to sign up for the best cable and Internet company that suits your needs. Depending on the security/"buzzing" system of your building, you might want to consider getting a really basic phone plan too.

Upon move-in day, you should check your apartment for any sort of problems and tell the leasing office about these necessary repairs. The sooner the better, because eventually you'll get lazy and won't really care. Plus, you could be liable for any major damages to your apartment if you don't report them within the first few days.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B6

### Transitioning to a house

By MEG GRAMMER  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Traditionally, becoming an upperclassman has its perks — you are first to register, first to pick housing, and you have the opportunity to go abroad. Another advantage is the option of living off campus for junior and senior year. With limited housing available to upperclassmen, many students embrace their new ability to live on their own and look to apartments and row houses as viable housing options.

Many find countless advantages to living in a row house over living in an apartment. "First of all, you get to live with all of your friends," said sophomore Erin Borek, who recently signed a lease for a row house next year. "You don't need to worry about picking one roommate to share the next two years with; rather, you can get a group of anywhere from three to eight people together all in one house."

CONTINUED ON PAGE B6



From the AMRs to Homewood, from on campus to off campus, the moving process can be daunting at best. Spare yourself some of the inherent confusion by consulting our annual Housing Guide.

Page B6

#### ARTS

Proof proves successful

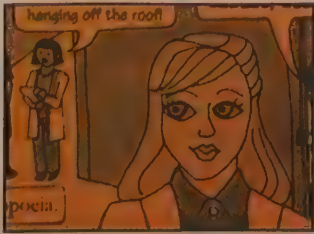
The Barnstormers present their take on David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning play. See what our critic thought. **Page B8.**



#### CARTOONS, ETC.

Weekly dose of crazy

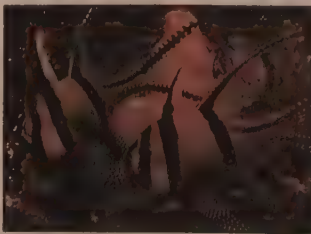
Zaniness abounds as usual in this week's **Cartoons** section. Comics, horoscopes, Sudoku and Matt Diamond. **Page B10.**



#### CALENDAR

Mapping out your weekend

A trip to the Aquarium, a DIY book release, and the Black Rebel Motorcycle Club. Check out what's going on. **Page B11.**



# FEATURES

## The Things I've Found True: William Rowe

History professor transforms a fascination borne out of war into a career studying one of the world's most ancient societies

WILLIAM T. ROWE  
East Asian Scholar

I grew up in Brooklyn. My earliest memory is of my father coming home from work. He was a banker. It wasn't a glorified job; he worked for a small savings bank. He had come out of the Depression as a farmer, had been drafted in World War II, then had come home and worked his way up from a teller to the president of this small bank. I remember watching him beginning his life when he came home. He liked his job, but he was a different person when he came home. I remember thinking that wasn't for me. But I knew that I was going to have to find a job doing something I loved. Later on, I realized that the academic life would let me do what I loved and get paid.

When I grew up, there was no world beyond Brooklyn. We played a lot of basketball, we partied. When I go back now to visit my father, who's 93 and still in the same house, it's funny. Some things have changed, some haven't.

I went to Wesleyan; I knew I wanted to be a professor. I majored in English, but I was a bad student. I learned a hell of a lot but didn't do any of the required reading. In 1967, right out of college, we were all drafted for Vietnam. This was before the lottery system. Congress had been debating whether they should take kids out of college so they decided they would take everybody, but they did give you a chance to take the test to see if you could qualify for Officer Candidate School. I took it, and I passed.

At that time, the student deferment wasn't an option. The only way you could get out of service was to go to divinity school. I wasn't that desperate, but I knew plenty of guys who started to become clergy to get out of the draft, then dropped it.

I wasn't in favor of the war, but my only options were to leave



COURTESY OF WILLIAM ROWE  
William Rowe meets relatives of a Qing dynasty leader, the eldest of which is the man's great-great-grandson, in Hengshan.

the country or take the commission. I guess I just did what I was told, although I certainly thought about the decision.

After my officer training, I was sent to Newport for a year, where I worked as a communications officer on a presidential command post. This was a big cruiser that had guns which nobody knew how to use. It was one of three command posts, one in the water, one in the air, and one in some hole in the ground, intended to provide a place for the president to evacuate in case of a nuclear war. We were always prepared for the president showing up. My job was to keep the communications circuits up and running. I spent a year and a half on that ship of fools and didn't really have to do anything. We kept the damn thing afloat but just barely. Half the crew were people with no interest in the military, like myself, while the other half were officers whose careers weren't going anywhere.

In late 1969, I was assigned to a riverboat squadron in Vietnam, you know, like *Apocalypse Now* and all that crap. But before I could get there, the whole squadron was completely lost.

I received orders to go to the Philippines instead. It was here that I first knew that Asia existed. It was one of the most vivid moments in my life. We were taking a bus to our station at Subic Bay and driving along this dirt road, and all along the side of the road were farmers out plowing their rice paddies with water buffalo. I could have been on Mars. I had no idea people still did that. I spent the rest of my commission there in the base library, as we had plenty of free time, reading up on the region.

When I got out of the navy, I got a job as a construction laborer in New York. It paid good money, so on nights and weekends I started taking classes on Asia. I had a particular interest in China but I didn't speak Chinese and my

undergrad grades were lousy. I managed to get into one grad school, and quit my job to take intensive Chinese at Columbia that summer. The class was taught by this old dragon lady who absolutely terrorized the class. After a few weeks, I was getting the best grades in the class. Finally, one day she literally grabbed me by the ear and dragged me down to the dean of East Asian Studies at Columbia. 'You will admit him,' she yelled, and the dean, who was as afraid of her as everyone else, did. It helped that I had a military background, as he was an old Swedish baron who had fought in the resistance in World War II, and figured a military man was just the type they needed in their program.

I graduated from grad school in 1980, the same year I married my wife, who I had met in one of the early Chinese classes. She had lived three blocks from me as a kid, but I hadn't known her. So we spent two years job hunting. I applied for 100 academic jobs, and nothing came. Finally, I realized I would have to do something else. I had been in the military, worked construction, worked in a bank, hated all of 'em. So I applied to join the CIA. The day

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

## When let's get it on is more than a song

Most of my friends in high school were annoyingly perfect. I learned that there are very few things worse than being the friend who *always* gets the wingman at a bar no matter what you do.

That fate goes right up there with most people's two big fears: public speaking and death. The thing that always impressed me — and most guys in whatever room they happened to grace — was the way my five good friends

If they wanted to take a guy home, or even just into a dark corner, all any of them had to do was get him on the dance floor and he was hers, if he could keep up.

Dancing today, in a club, bar or frat basement, beyond being a good workout, is about sex.

If you can do one right, chances are you can do the other pretty well too.

So the question really is, how does one define "well"? I can tango well. Does that put me higher or lower than my friend who treats a pole like an extension of her body? Wait, don't answer that — but you get my drift.

For the nay-sayers who say dancing isn't the way to go, they're not looking at the whole picture.

I really don't care if you can tear up a dance floor on your own — what really matters is if we can dance well together.

A good solo dancer is about as useful as someone who can only get themselves off alone. Although it's sometimes interesting to watch, it won't do much for someone else.

Dancing, like sex, changes every time and with every mood, and it's just as much about timing, confidence and control as it is about the bump and grind, horizontal and vertical.

Although most people initially dance facing each other, this position is actually harder to do with a new partner. Think of dancing face-to-face as the equivalent of

missionary position: easy to do it OK, harder to make it great.

If you're just dancing with someone for the first time, dancing facing the same direction (i.e. guy behind girl) is actually a lot easier.

Facing the same direction when dancing (the girl is usually in front, but I guess it can be whichever floats your boat) lends the great advantage of not looking at the other person (there's a reason people like doggie style sex so much too — eye contact can sometimes get a bit intense). Once

in this position though, it's all about body contact: pulling someone in close and hard or moving slowly together waiting for a good song to move things along. Although the guy has the upper hand by standing behind the girl,

in this position he is in a place to follow the girl he's dancing with and enjoy himself.

This is good for guys who aren't in the mood to lead or for guys who question their ability on the dance floor.

A girl's ability to take the lead here is much like her riding cowgirl in that she controls the speed and rhythm.

To make it really memorable, a guy should remember that he's not getting a free ride and should try to help her out. When girls take control it's all in the hips: moving slowly at first and making slower circles, then the gradual move onto deeper, faster rhythm.

Whatever beat you two negotiate, move together. Keeping full body contact here, him pushing slightly forward while she's pushing slightly back, will definitely up the sensation for both of you and make sure you stay moving together for the whole time.

Although most of dancing and sex starts with the hips, what makes a dance memorable is how people put other parts of their body to use.

If you're in this position, once CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



Jess Beaton

### Orgasmic Chemistry

## Survivors of torture unite in Baltimore

By PATRICE HUTTON  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Political asylum seekers are those who if American — would use their First Amendment rights to their fullest extent. They'd stand persistently vigilant as White House protesters. They'd launch letter-writing campaigns to their congressmen. They'd work to register under represented voting populations. They'd serve as leaders of human rights advocacy groups.

Instead, they're the subject of Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International reports of human rights violations in their home countries.

They're the people who gave activism a try back home — whether that be anywhere from Burma to Eritrea — and had their voices squelched by an oppressive governmental regime. Besides suppression of their message, punishment for their dissent was often inflicted through brutal physical torture.

As asylum seekers attempt to legally assimilate into the United States, they often struggle to find housing and employment. But the physical and psychological effects brought about by torture often further impede their process of resettlement.

Often their only hope is found through Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (ASTT), a Baltimore-based organization created to help alleviate the continued suffering that faces a population unrecognized by the government. Asylum seekers arrive at ASTT through referral by a lawyer, health care provider, refugee advocate or fellow refugee.

ASTT was founded in 1987, grassroots style, with the mission of providing a comprehensive treatment for those who were victims of torture in their countries of origin.

"We realized that there are a number of people in our geographic area who were not refugees but asylum seekers," said Karen Hanscom, director of ASTT. "Regardless of whether a person gets asylum or not we provide assistance," she said.

There are 500,000 survivors of torture and war-related trauma currently residing in the U.S., according to a report by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Around 40,000 of these live in the Baltimore/Washington area. ASTT currently serves over 180 of those victims.

Serving asylum-seeking populations throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C. and parts of Delaware, ASTT offers assistance through psychological counseling, referrals for medical treatment, and legal, housing and food aid.

ASTT has worked with clients from 22 countries. Common countries of origin include Eritrea, Bosnia, Ethiopia, Burma and Afghanistan.

Baltimore — which has historically served as a port of entry for new Americans — becomes home to many asylum seekers every year.

Common to all ASTT clients is a history of suffering torture, which is often used as a method of punishment for political dissent in an attempt to intimidate, deter, and terrorize entire communities, while destroying the self.

"Torture is inflicted in any form you can imagine," Hanscom said. "I thought I'd heard of everything possible that a human could do to another human, but then I see and hear something worse."

Electrocution, flagellation and rape of both women and men are the most common types of torture suffered by ASTT clients.

ASTT works to help clients through the psychological effects

of torture induced post-traumatic stress disorder, which include anxiety, depression, "flashbacks" to abusive events and a loss of motivation. Feelings of guilt or worthlessness, a difficulty in connecting with others and an inability to visualize the future render establishing a new life near impossible.

Arduous legal battles also hinder the process of resettlement, and ASTT works to ease such troubles by offering legal aid and expert witness testimonies in immigration court.

"Political asylum is granted when you've proven to the government that you have a well founded fear of persecution in your home country," Hanscom said. "And almost everybody does not get it."

Prior to fleeing their homeland, the asylum seekers held positions as professionals, labor leaders, legislators and human rights activists. A number of those seeking asylum were students at universities in their country of origin. However, upon arrival in the U.S., legal status often prevents them from finding work.

"It can be months or years before they can find work," Hanscom said.

ASTT success stories, however, have been abundant. Many clients report that the psychological counseling allowed them to ease into life in the U.S. and the workplace, as well as reclaim a hope for the future, Hanscom said.

For the clients of ASTT who are fortunate enough to successfully resettle into Baltimore and beyond, the U.S. will undoubtedly serve as a bastion of freedom of expression.

As they complete their work with ASTT and settle into homes and the workforce, the asylees will hopefully become our newest generation of activists and human rights advocates.

### HOT AT HOPKINS

Your rendition of "Let's Get It On" seduces everyone within earshot. So do your bulging muscles and gorgeous face. Be a dear and share your "talents" with us all. We're waiting. E-mail: features@jhunewsletter.com



Name: Matthew Carlson  
Year: 2009  
Hometown: Bristol, CT  
Major: International Relations

Looking to score with a soccer hottie? Well, search no further than freshman Matthew Carlson. That's right, this leader on the varsity soccer field is a regular old captain of the ladies' hearts.

Aside from kicking balls, this hunk enjoys "ceramics -- specifically pot-throwing -- baseball, club basketball and playing HALO." Oh wow, a boy at Hopkins who loves video games — what a rare gem.

Though generally a guy with a lot of integrity, Matthew does admit that he cannot stand "people who take Spanish I Elements here at Hopkins, who have already taken five years of Spanish in high school." Yeah, those kids really do suck.

This studmuffin prefers girls who are honest, seductive and like to laugh. He also lists under his turn-ons: "great smiles, midgets, a sexy voice and girls who drink cheap champagne

(specifically Andre)." So girls, just lurk around the Schnapp Shop and flash your pearly whites when this lush comes your way.

While you're at it, bring a boom box and blast "Forever Young" as performed by Youth Group in season three, episode four of *The O.C.* Feel free to quote Summer or Marissa, too, because Matthew is quite the fanatic for that show about everyone's favorite snobbish, beautiful kids from California.

Just be careful if you see this Mario Andretti wannabe cruisin' the streets. In high school, when he was in a rush to reach his parent-free home with his girlfriend, he was pulled over for suspicious and fast driving. "What is embarrassing was that I was driving quickly because yes, I was horny, which I now understand is basically like driving drunk," he said. "Lessoned learned — don't drive horny." So keep your eye on the road and maybe you'll get to ride with this studly guy.



Name: Ashley Danielle Mays  
Year: 2009  
Hometown: Norristown, PA  
Major: Biomolecular Engineering

It's not everyday that we profile an actual model in Hot at Hopkins. But today, our pages are graced with the sultry styles of Ms. Mays, who poses professionally. Who knew such a lady existed at Hopkins?

And, even better, apparently Ashley lacks any flaws whatsoever. When asked about her worst characteristic, she said, "I have none. Duh!" Heck, there's nothin' like a bit o' confidence to make someone that much hotter. But, she did say that her worst habits were "putting lip gloss on every 30 seconds and talking to myself." Still, well-moisturized lips are far from a bad thing.

So of course, Ashley's got more than a few attributes going on. For her best quality, she said "most guys think I have a big butt for a skinny girl." Well, Sir-Mix-A-Lot would be pleased.

So what does it take to snag this hottie? Well, she said, "I love confident sexy guys who wear Lacoste cologne and nice clothes, and guys who smile." She added, "I really love Latin guys. Holler!"

She also likes "muscles, attractiveness, sexiness... independence, money, intelligence and faith in God." Damn, best of luck finding all that in one fellow.

As for what turns this lady off? "Basically, if you are not sexy, then don't even bother looking my direction or asking for my number because the answer is Hell-no," Ashley said.

But, she admits, it really "depends on the guy."

# Barbecue, pastrami delight Baltimore

Cultural traditions need not be isolated to their point of origin. Take the Christmas tree, for example; the custom of using such a tree began in Germany and spread to the English-speaking world thanks to some convenient royal marriages to Great Britain. It goes without saying that food has an appreciably similar tendency to pack its bags and leave home, just as the people who love that food do.

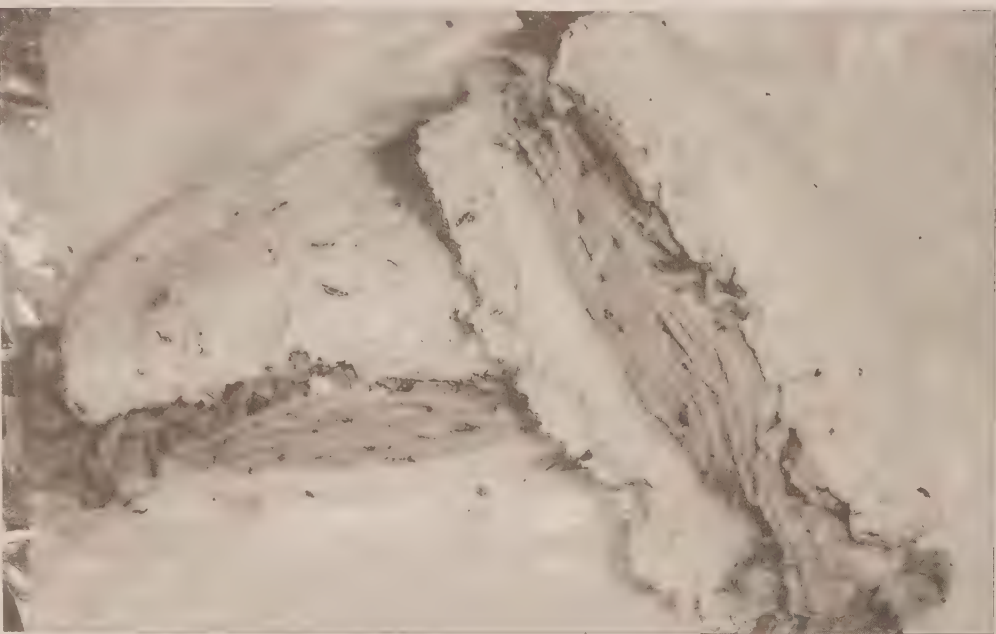
Baltimore, like many other great American cities, certainly musters its culinary flair from the idiosyncratic specialties brought by its diverse population. Besides obvious examples like Little Italy, there are thriving Korean districts, Greek districts, Jewish districts and more — all with exciting places to eat.

Though I could discuss these ethnic neighborhoods and their interesting, independent eateries, I'd like to focus on a particular type of restaurant. Though a formal categorical name escapes me, I shall designate this type of restaurant the *Geographically Displaced American Restaurant*.

What is this, you ask? The GDAR is a restaurant that serves one American region's food to another region of America. This is not an exclusive type of restaurant, and thus examples of such abound.

Why, then, if they are so common, should they deserve special consideration? Because good examples engage the patron beyond only the taste of food, which is the very goal of the Postmodern Gourmet. Such restaurants provide a fantasy, a brief escape from the realities of the places we call home. We can be in some sense transported from Baltimore to the Deep South, the deserts of the Southwest or any number of places that produce interesting food. Our minds may flicker with nostalgia — real memories or scenes from movies we once saw. Think of these places like you would a cover song — removed from its original context, but sometimes more exciting.

Most restaurants of this type, provided they are independently operated, will still reflect some of the character of its physical location. Foreign food restaurants do this as well, but the fact that the



Attman's has introduced several generations of Baltimoreans to New York delicacies, including the classic pastrami sandwich.

GDAR is American-inspired allows the contrasts to blend more subtly, sometimes imperceptibly, whereas a Chinese restaurant's attempt at American normalcy might seem jarring or even humorous.

This synthesis found in certain GDARs could provide a new perspective for the analytic observer. Maybe that's a stretch, but it's free to try and no one will know how ridiculous you are until you start talking about it.

I can recommend two examples of such restaurants that deliver a classic style of food but maintain a Baltimorean character. I selected these restaurants for their unyielding adherence to quality, their independent legitimacy, and their value as examples of food culture being transplanted and *really* working. Best of all, these places are unassuming and cheap — just like our fair city.

The first joint of these two most honorable mentions is Attman's Authentic N.Y. Delicatessen at

1019 E. Lombard St., downtown. Attman's is the crown jewel of the great Jewish food treasury that is affectionately called "Corned Beef Row."

"Corned Beef Row" is situated in a neighborhood that was once inhabited largely by Jewish folks. Most of these people moved away from the city into the County and the district is now what I will euphemistically call "low rent."

Sure, it ain't the prettiest place for a deli, but Attman's has been there for over 90 years, and it's so popular where it is that it shouldn't go anywhere. It is still owned and operated by the Attman family, who take pride in their restaurant's history and quality.

This place is a great deli, at which much of the food is made on premises or produced, expressly for the establishment. The homemade corned beef and pastrami are unbelievable and probably the best I've ever had.

The atmosphere is what one would expect from a real NYC Jewish deli — crowded, narrow, laden with countless delicacies and a little rough around the edges. The staff, most of whom are Baltimore natives, is efficient, friendly and capable of making some of the best sandwiches this side of the Mason-Dixon.

It isn't just a restaurant, but rather it's a cultural phenomenon — something people are proud

of. It's the perfect New York deli in Baltimore. And yes, they have crab cakes.

My most recent restaurant love is Andy Nelson's BBQ in Cockeysville. The founder, Mr. Nelson himself, played for the Baltimore Colts from '57 to '63 as a safety. Luckily for us, Nelson had more talents than just football. A southerner by origin, he had learned how to make delicious and tender barbecued meats in all sorts of styles. As a stalwart Northerner, I was only vaguely aware that so many defined styles existed in the world of BBQ. Andy Nelson's offers a little of each, while perfecting every dish.

The restaurant is counter served and the menu is fairly diverse, ranging from succulent pulled pork to incredible ribs. For about \$8, the barbecue pilgrim can receive an amply sized sandwich, two sides and a drink. Ribs cost more, but they're good enough for the splurge.

Like Attman's, much of what they use is produced in house, even the Southern-style sweet tea and three well executed sauces, Alabama-style, Carolina-Style and the beguiling Pig Dip. The condiment counter features not only all of the aforementioned, but a healthy selection of quirkily named hot sauces.

Service is lightning fast and courteous and seating is cozy, unique and comfortable. These folks have clearly put a lot of thought into making the restaurant exactly as it should be.

Besides the old Colts paraphernalia, you can tell it's Baltimore by the presence of Pit Beef — a Baltimore classic alongside blue crabs and Berger cookies.

# Students bring love of dance to local schools

By JEN ARMSTRONG  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Almost every girl wants to be a ballerina. A recent study shows that a ballet dancer is still in the top dream jobs for elementary school girls (along with teacher, author and even hairdresser).

While in most places parents sign their aspiring ballerinas up for expensive dance classes or after-school programs, this is significantly harder here in Baltimore where poverty is common and after-school arts classes are scarce.

A few Hopkins students and the Center for Social Concern have recently set up the Center for Social Concern (CSC)/Greater Homewood Community Center After School Dance Program to make sure Baltimore City youth can learn the art of dance in a healthy, safe environment.

Still in its first year with the CSC, the program receives funding from the GHCC to buy equipment like dance shoes, leotards and CD players for the classes, a big plus for some of the needier schools in the Baltimore area.

Student volunteers teach programs at three elementary schools in the area, and aspiring grade school dancers have their choice of classical lessons like ballet and tap, and non-traditional classes like hip-hop, movement and jazz. Once a week, students and teachers gather after school to learn dance steps and practice routines for an end-of-year recital.

"They love performing for their teachers and classmates," said freshman Elizabeth Caudle, a tap teacher. "It makes them feel like they've got something special."

Hours of preparation go into the big day, including choreographing, practice and a workshop about stage makeup. But the After School Dance Program isn't all about tutus and ballet slippers, nor is its only goal a cute program on recital day. It's

mostly about helping out Baltimore school children.

President Jillian Richmond sees the programs as a way to change the community. "If you look at Baltimore City schools, they have very low retention rates. By giving kids something interesting to do after school, hopefully we keep them interested in going back," she said.

And in a city where truancy rates are among the highest, it can't be a bad idea to keep kids interested. The encouragement of education continues inside the dance studio, too. "We have four workshops in the class: time management, health, stage makeup and cultural dance," said Richmond.

But it's not only the students who benefit from these programs. Another goal of the program is to "foster a sense of community and awareness between Baltimore and Hopkins," and it has certainly affected the student volunteers.

"It gives me more perspective about how Baltimore really is. The life of real Baltimoreans" Caudle said. Teachers also try to cater to the surrounding school and cultural atmospheres, some teachers even going the extra mile to ask the kids to choose the music for the dance recital (rap and hip-hop) with a little bit of compromise (all lyrics deleted).

Coming from a college community that often disdainful of its location, a little bit of understanding towards the residents of the so-called Greatest City in America is a step towards a better community. "Serving Baltimore through the art of dance" is a fitting idea for this program. Not only does the program promote well-being in all of the participants, it also engages all of those who take part.

"I know the kids always look forward to coming to class," Caudle said. "I can tell they are always really excited about getting up and dancing."



Young dancers perform their Christmas special after receiving free dance lessons.

# Shaking your thang in clubs can lead to success in bed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

together, what are you doing with your hands? Your mouth? No one should have to do all the work.

The least you can do is help them enjoy it while they are doing it.

When not facing each other, hands have free reign to trace and slide to more places than in any other match-up.

Feel free to take advantage without getting yourself kicked out.

The next step up is dancing face-to-face. What's needed when two people dance face-to-face is similar to the same thing that makes average sex in missionary into really good sex.

OK, of course it's about a good partner, but it's also about finding a good rhythm and then keeping things tight.

If you're not ready to get close and essentially wrapped around someone, take a break and get a drink.

Secondly you have to watch each other's beat. The hardest thing for most girls to do is follow but if you're both doing your own thing you're not going to match up.

Once the two of you are going at the same pace, it can't be a passive bump and grind. Take a good grip on an arm, back or even hair when someone does a good bump or grind — non-verbal signals are really just as important as any phrase that will come out of your mouth.

Good body language will keep everyone at attention and engaged.

Finally you can judge someone when they find themselves in a threesome — especially guys.

Every now and then you see a guy who finds two girl (space) friends who are ready to share one guy on the dance floor. If he can hold his own, more often than not there's enough to go

around.

These are usually two types of guys, though: those who get two girls and look like they're halfway to heaven and those who look happy and then realize they are expected to perform.

Essentially when approached by two girls the key is not to be an amazing dancer with both of them (we all know things get a little more complicated with two), but rather to make each one feel like she's more important than the other.

In a threesome, keeping the same rhythm is less important than making everyone feel included. If one girl feels left out, she's either going to grab her friend and find another guy who can satisfy her or you're going to be left with only one girl — which in itself isn't such a bad thing, but we can all get a little greedy sometimes.

If you've gotten through all of this and are still up for going out this weekend, then you have the right idea.

For all of these positions — front, back and otherwise accompanied — all you really need is confidence.

Having the balls to get out and dance puts you ahead of everyone who just stands at the side of the floor thinking they're saving face by not joining in.

In reality, if girls are dancing in a group, they almost always look good, or at least there are too many body parts flying to care. And for guys, everyone can do "the sway" — you shift your bodyweight from one foot to the other.

Confidence, more than any other trait, has the best carry-over to sex.

If someone is a horrible dancer with no shame, that's one thing, but if they are just out on the dance floor looking like they're up for a good time, someone might just get the idea to offer them one.

# Fashion permeates the world of restaurants and architecture

New chefs, architects experiment with cutting-edge meals and designs to cater to fashion savvy crowds with high-class taste

Superficial, materialistic, ruthless and unrealistic. These are just a few of the derogatory adjectives fired at the fashion industry.

And, with its impossibly thin models, exclusive aura and proclivity to call something chic one day and hideous the next, this perception is quite understandable.

Moreover, those involved in the fashion business — designers, stylists, models and the like — are especially derided by the general public, which commonly conceives the formers' professions as both shallow and irrelevant.

To most, to be a part of the fashion industry is to be apart from the "real world."

However, those who judge and ridicule often overlook the influence this business, notably its material creations and guiding principles, has on a myriad of sectors of society and the economy.

Far from being an industry predicated on triviality, fashion is a force present in nearly every business setting, regardless of whether actual garments are at hand.

Take the food industry, for example. Over the past 20 years, this sector of the economy has garnered itself astronomical market share.

And, as a product of increasing wealth and conspicuous consumption throughout much of the world, food and restaurants have become far more than sources of sustenance and deli-

cious tastes, instead joining the ranks of "high fashion."

London, New York City, Los Angeles and even Oklahoma are all homes to food industries concerned not only with producing delectable cuisine, but also memorable, stylish dining experiences for the numerous patrons at their eateries.

Today, presentation and décor are often major attractions within the eatery and the hallmarks of a five-star restaurant.

Privy to this fact, head chefs from all varieties of restaurants — be they world-class or local — favor colorful ingredients to excite diners' eyes, and present their delicacies in a most artful manner, so as to evoke optimal beauty — techniques intrinsic to the fashion industry.

Just recall the likes of *Martha Stewart Living*, a television show and periodical that have made billions of aspiring domestic goddesses apply principles of fashion to food and usually mundane housework.

Influencing far more than just cuisine, fashion has become a key consideration in the lives and careers of builders and architects as well.

While fashion designers have always been concerned with the way an article of clothing looks

and how it makes its wearer feel, architects have only recently adopted these same tenets.

Whereas homes and office buildings of the past had utilitarianism guiding their designs, more recent years have style and sleekness as being equally important to functionality.

Much like the fashion world has Roberto Cavalli and Muccia Prada masterminding the industry, so, too, does the architectural world have figures like Corbusier or Aalto driving its style-centric movement.

In essence, the qualities high fashion has always held precedent — a focus on the material, beauty before comfort and the intention of evoking emotion through design — have gradually permeated a variety of ostensibly unrelated industries.

As society — most commonly Western — becomes ever more prosperous, cultured and refined, the contemporary human desires aesthetic beauty in every aspect of life, be it a wearable one or not.

Businesses have become so aware of fashion and style's ability to please people, and its applicability to other facets of life, that it is not uncommon to find law firms or banks creating aesthetic spaces within their con-

fines.

Waiting rooms are just one of the many spaces adorned with vivid and colorful furniture, creative light fixtures and trendy accessories.

And while the fashion industry has had a significant impact on a myriad of unrelated fields, so, too, have those fields had an influence on the world of fashion.

Designers have always drawn unexpected inspiration for their unique designs from their surroundings, creating skirts printed with the flora and fauna, or stilettos modeled after sky scrapers.

But as chefs, architects and other professionals have embraced creativity and style, a symbiotic relationship has developed, with fashion and non-fashion industries working together, feeding off each other's visions.

Designers like Yohji Yamamoto and Issey Miyake regularly find inspirations for their collection in various other realms of life and culture, such as architecture, furniture design, and even the agricultural industry.

And, needless to say, the film industry has always merged its creations with fashion, with directors and actors turning to top designers to craft the look and atmosphere their movies are to convey.

So, next time you encounter a skeptic scorning the fashion industry as a frivolous and insignificant, take a look around you.

Chances are fashion pervades far beyond just the world of clothing.



Justin Oren  
Postmodern  
Gourmet



Carter Cramer  
Hop Couture

## FEATURES

# Democrats share politics over drinks, liberally

By ERICA MITRANO  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

"Promoting democracy one pint at a time." This is the slogan of Drinking Liberally, a national organization dedicated to bringing progressives together over beer.

And now Hopkins has its very own chapter to represent the group. Founded by seniors Jess Beaton and Claire Edington, Drinking Liberally held its second meeting at Charles Village Pub last Thursday evening.

At the meeting, there was barely room to sit down and sip on a drink or two. Members drifted in and out, but there were always about 12 people trying to share two tables in the crowded bar.

Students sitting on a wooden bench crammed themselves together to make space for a newcomer.

Occasionally, it became so crowded that someone even had to stand. "We should work musical chairs into it," senior Josh Isaacs quipped.

The atmosphere was very relaxed and informal, more like a casual gathering of good friends than a political event.

The noise in the bar and the awkward seating arrangements made having one large discussion somewhat difficult. Instead, small conversations flourished among the many people there for the meeting.

Talk ranged over a variety of topics, not all of them political.

A discussion of anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan's arrest at the State of the Union morphed into a conversation about professional baseball player Johnny Damon's new contract with the New York Yankees, before changing into a debate about the force-feeding of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. The wide array of topics was par for the course for the entire evening.



Students who gather for Drinking Liberally call Charles Village Pub home, meeting Thursday evenings to discuss political issues.

After a discussion of the USA Patriot Act, a member joked, "If they only knew what we were saying."

"They probably do. Don't know who 'they' are, but they do," another answered.

Edington wore a red, white and blue button which read, "I only drink with liberals."

But there was remarkably little drinking going on — there were as many soft drinks as beers on the table. Isaacs expressed surprise that one of the members, who is not 21, was not drinking. "Reporter," she mumbled in explanation.

Despite the group's name, not everyone at the gathering had stereotypical liberal views. Beaton gave Isaacs a friendly interrogation on his politics. He answered several questions without missing a beat.

Finally, Beaton asked him, "Textile tariffs?" Isaacs was stymied.

Asked about his politics, Isaacs said he was a centrist, adding, "I don't protest or anything. I'm not crazy."

According to Isaacs, the group is open to a wide range of political opinion. "If you're left of the Christian right, come," he said.

Edington explained that Drinking Liberally is "an opportunity for liberal and like-minded professors and students to come together and talk politics in an informal setting."

Ultimately, "we hope to see people from the community, not just Hopkins. The ultimate goal is to get people from Charles Village."

Edington hopes that Drinking Liberally will be a first step in building a tradition of liberalism on campus.

Senior Emilie Adams said she is part of the group's leadership in an informal capacity. She envisions Drinking Liberally expanding to include speaking events and guests.

But Adams believes that the group will have to fight an uphill battle against political apathy at Hopkins.

Hopkins students, Adams said, "get lost in the depths of the library. It's hard to read [sic] CNN when you have to read 200

pages of bio."

Beaton agrees. Drinking Liberally will have to "challenge the politically active to get the politically apathetic moving. But I think there's hope," she said.

"On the whole, there are not many people [at Hopkins] who are politically active," said junior David Orr.

Political Science professor Matthew Crenson attended Drinking Liberally's first meeting.

Political apathy at Hopkins goes back to his experience as an undergraduate, he said.

But he thinks the group provides a useful forum on campus, attracting both committed liberals and those who come for the drinks and conversation.

The location helps just as much. No other student group regularly hosts meetings in a bar, and few offer such an informal setting. "I hope to go again," Crenson said.

Drinking Liberally meets Thursdays at 5 p.m. at Charles Village Pub.

# Professor studies China's past, future world role

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2  
applied to join the CIA. The day they accepted me was the day that UNC Charlotte called and said that the candidate they had for a professorship had backed out and gone to Princeton, and they gave both my wife and I jobs. I figured Charlotte was better than the CIA, so I accepted.

During my two years at UNC, I was part of the first academic group to be able to visit China after Mao. I spent six months in China in a rough hellhole of a city — this was only four years after Mao's death. It was a China that doesn't exist anymore. It was delightfully undeveloped but also difficult to visit. There were no restaurants, for example. Sure, the U.S. ping-pong team had been before, but we were the first people to show any interest in Chinese history. The archivists at the local libraries couldn't believe it.

I was hired by Hopkins in 1982. For 30 years before my hiring, there had been no Asian Studies at the University. They hired me because of a demographic crisis — the department was 100 percent old. There are still a few of the professors here, but most have retired. I was the only China scholar on staff until just recently, when we hired our second. But the talent of this department is in learning from each other, from being engaged in each other's work. Even though I'm teaching about the other side of the world, we're always teaching each other.

I want to make clear that it's unfair to hold the yardstick of progress that we use for the rest of the world up to China. The more I study the area the more I challenge my own assumptions of the way the world works. China has had great historical change. Even if it doesn't look like 'progress' to the Western world, this change has a logic behind it.

Scholars of China were astonished at the ferocity of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Many older scholars were stunned, very concerned that their optimism might have caused the students to be killed. To me, there were two very distinct responses. One was the Bush senior response, who said, 'You can't expect the Chinese leaders to respect human rights because they have no tradition of it.' The other was the Richard Gere response, saying, 'We know what human rights are' and shoving it down the throats of the Chinese. The trick is to find a middle ground between these two approaches, and it's difficult.

I had written a biography of a revered Chinese leader in the Qing dynasty. After 10 years of reading and studying his writings, I had the chance to visit his village. It was way out in the boonies, and the only thing that's really left is the temple of his lineage. I met the village elders, one of which was the great-great grandson of this man. We talked for hours about his ancestors, of how proud they were of him, even if the Maoists hated him. They showed me their proud relics: two gigantic stone lions outside of the temple, given to the village in honor of their leader. I recently received a copy of a biography of this man, written by one of his ancestors, who is a college professor. I like to think that my earlier biography had inspired him to write his own work on his ancestor.

If there's one thing I want people to remember it is that China is not stagnant, the Western world is not always progressive and there isn't always some need for the West to 'straighten these guys out.' I'm here to tell you they've been moving along.

—As told to staff writer Matt Hansen

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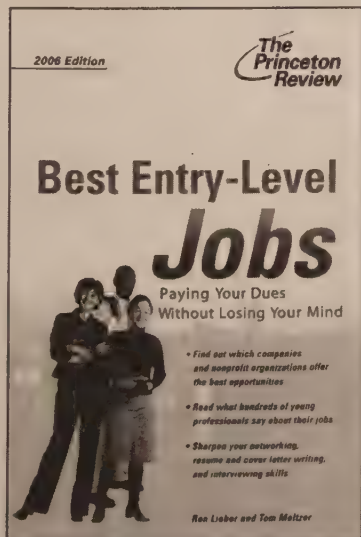
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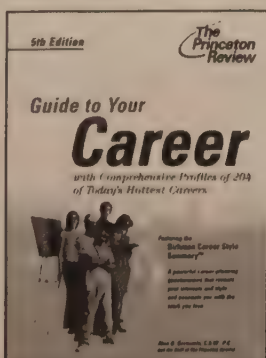
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# Sharing Common Ground

## UPPER-CLASS ROOM SELECTION 2006



### ***Have you heard the news?***

For the first time in five years the Housing & Dining department is offering university housing to upperclassmen with spaces to choose from in Charles Commons, McCoy, Homewood and Bradford.



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HOUSING  
& DINING**  
SERVICES

Johns Hopkins University

We look forward to seeing rising juniors and seniors at the upcoming Upper-class Room Selection Process events:

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 31st & Friday, Feb. 3rd**

**Housing and Dining Information Booth**  
12:00noon – 2:00pm, Wolman Hall Lobby

#### **Wednesday, Feb. 1st & Wednesday, Feb. 8th**

**Housing and Dining Information Booth**  
12:00noon – 2:00pm, Gilman Breezeway

#### **Wednesday, Feb. 8th**

**Group of 8 Information Session**  
4:00pm, AMR I Multipurpose Room

#### **Wednesday, Feb. 8th – Tuesday, Feb. 14th**

**Group of 8 Registration to be completed and submitted on-line**

Visit [www.jhu.edu/hds](http://www.jhu.edu/hds)

► **Deadline: Feb. 14th at 11:59pm** ◀

#### **Wednesday, Feb. 15th**

**Upper-class Room Selection and Off-Campus Housing Information Session**  
5:00pm, Arellano Theater, Levering Hall

#### **Friday, Feb. 17th**

**Group of 8 Assignment Notification Letters sent out by 5:00pm**

#### **Friday, Feb. 17th – Sunday, Feb. 26th**

**Upper-class Room Selection Registration to be completed and submitted on-line**  
Visit [www.jhu.edu/hds](http://www.jhu.edu/hds)

► **Deadline: Feb. 26th at 11:59pm** ◀

#### **Wednesday, Feb. 22nd**

**Charles Commons Hard Hat Tours**  
3:00pm-5:00pm, Meet in the Lobby of Wolman

#### **Friday, Feb. 24th**

**Residence Halls and Apartment Tours: McCoy/Bradford/Homewood**  
3:00pm – 5:00pm, Meet in the Lobby of Wolman

#### **Wednesday, Mar. 1st**

**Off-Campus Housing Information Booth**  
12:00noon – 2:00pm, Wolman Hall Lobby

#### **Thursday, Mar. 2nd**

**Upper-class Group # Notification in student mailboxes at 3pm**

#### **Thursday, Mar. 2nd**

**Residence Halls and Apartment Tours: McCoy/Charles Commons/Bradford/Homewood**  
5:00pm-7:00pm, Meet in the Lobby of Wolman

#### **Tuesday, Mar. 7th**

**Upper-class Contract Signing Session**  
5:00pm, AMR I Multipurpose Room  
Each group will be assigned a specific time to attend

#### **Friday, Mar. 10th**

**Off-Campus Housing Fair**  
11:30am-2:00pm, Glass Pavilion

## A NEST FOR EVERY BLUEJAY

This year brings a lot of important changes in the housing selection process for Hopkins students. These exciting changes will affect students of all ages. Members of the Hopkins community who thought their experience in University housing was finished are now being welcomed back with great enthusiasm.

The face of our University's community is rapidly transforming. It is crucial that the members

of our community be informed of the changes taking place. Ideally, each member of our community will be motivated to actively participate in and contribute their opinions to these changes.

This week's Focus section was designed to offer a wealth of information to students concerning all aspects of living at Hopkins.

Stay informed and take part in the conversations that are taking place right now. Our community is incredibly valuable, as are our opinions about the new direction we are moving in. So don't just sit there — inform yourself!

—Sam Engel



## Row houses have ups, downs and all arounds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

"It's kind of like we are a family in the sense that we cook together, we have shared responsibilities to take care of the house," said David Scheltz who lives in a row house on University Parkway across the street from Union Memorial Hospital.

Another, more practical advantage to living in a row house is paying lower rent. Simple math will show that having a larger number of roommates equates to paying a lower rent. In most cases, row houses are a far more economical solution to the housing dilemma; the average rent per person is \$200-\$400 dollars less than the average apartment that can go for more than \$700 a month.

Yet another benefit to living in a row house is not being on the meal plan — a costly and fiscally inefficient means of eating for most students, despite what housing and dining may say.

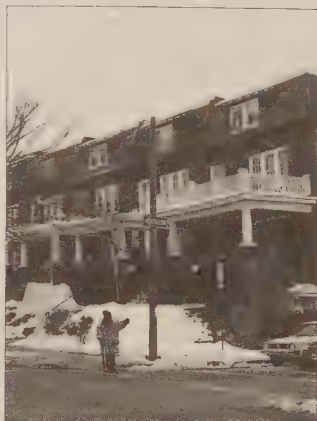
Students living in row houses may also enjoy the opportunity to house man's best friend, as well as almost any other pet — a provision not allowed by most apartment buildings.

Unfortunately, everything that glitters isn't gold, and row houses bring a slew of disadvantages to match the benefits.

To begin, there is the question of dues. Inevitably one bedroom will be larger than the other. So, choosing which roommate pays the higher rent for the larger room and how much more should they pay becomes a sticky subject.

Another pressing issue is safety. The neighborhood streets where most of these houses are situated are not patrolled on foot by the Hop Cops; instead, they are far from campus and poorly lit, making for a dangerous walk alone at night.

Along with the safety issue,



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER  
Rowhouses need lots of upkeep.

students who live in these homes are often responsible for having their own insurance, in the case of a fire, break-in or flooded basement.

Yet another downside is the necessity of being your own groundskeeper, shoveling your own walk, trim your own hedges and even pull your own weeds — responsibilities for which many students are unprepared.

"It is a pain in the ass when something breaks, you have to call the landlord, it's not like there's a maintenance guy right in the building, you have to wait a few days and that can be a hassle," Scheltz said.

Another quail that many students have is the potential to acquire "strikes" from the new university alcohol policy. If neighbors pose a noise complaint and authorities are called, no matter if it's a yahtzee party or a frat-party, students have the potential of being suspended from the university as strikes add up.

Thus, no living situation is ideal, but as Borek reiterated "because its cheap and you get to live with all your friends, the positives far outweigh the negatives."

## A survivor's guide to apartment life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Next comes the (initially) fun part — furniture shopping. Though, as junior Megha Parikh points out, compared to the option of living in a row house, "you don't need to buy as much furniture," there's still plenty of stuff to buy.

For most new apartment owners, getting furniture is a scavenging process. Ask graduating seniors if they're selling stuff, beg your family for freebies, check online classifieds like DailyJolt or Craigslist obsessively, go to Ikea/Target/Walmart, and ask fancier furniture stores if they sell floor models or flawed items at a discounted price.

Eventually you'll acquire an eclectic mix of furniture, electronics and appliances.

Before you get too comfy with your newly furnished apartment, be wary that apartment-related disasters and adventures will inevitably arise. Junior Preeti Mehta said that the worst thing about living in an apartment is "dealing with little things that go wrong, like having a mouse or cockroaches, or when the heating is not working."

Keep all of your food that's in cardboard boxes or thin bags in big Tupperware containers, or else Mickey the neighborhood mouse and his fellow rodents and critters will have a feast.

Be aware of how strictly your building managers enforce their noise policy. Some places don't care, while others are strict about maintaining silence.

Determine how you'll split the costs with your roommate. Keep track of when everything is due each month, or else you'll be making a frantic call to your parents on the first of the month when you realize there's not enough money in your account to cover rent.

More roommate business — along with splitting the costs, also split the household duties equally. Otherwise, every

time you're scrubbing the toilet (again), you'll not only be grossed out, but also silently cursing your roommate.

The location of your building can also become an issue. "It's a farther walk from campus if you want to take a nap during the day or go home for lunch," said junior Yana Belyaev.

Never fear: Though there might be some apartment-related annoyances that pop up, there are also perks that make it all worth it.

First off, there's the freedom that goes along with living in your own place. "I'd say the best thing about living in apartment is having your own room, and just more space in general," said junior Preeti Mehta. "Also, it makes you feel like you're living your own life, unmonitored."

Going along with this, there's the social aspect of being a tenant — apartment parties bring a sense of intimacy. And, you'll never have to hide alcohol or worry about an RA catching you in the middle of a get together.

Also, dinner parties are quite possibly one of the best pseudo-grownup activities to partake in, and even a tiny apartment can fit more guests than you'd think.

Oh, and the privacy is amazing. Freshman dorms were great at the time, but constant social stimulation isn't for everyone (and doesn't make for the best GPA). Plus, you and your roommate will have separate bedrooms, which makes for fewer awkward situations when you have a, um, guest.

All in all, part of the fun of living in Baltimore is that whole "charm" thing, and the same usually goes for living in an apartment within Baltimore. The power will go out, mice will visit and the occasional tenor will stroll past your window singing religious songs. But hey, at least you'll never have to drink lukewarm vodka or seclude your roommate ever again. Ah, freedom.



FILE PHOTO/ROBIN SHAW  
With the right apartment-living tips in mind, life at the Marylander can be pleasant.

## True confessions of a college-age apartment queen

As the grand opening of the new Charles Commons approaches, the class of 2007 is faced with a unique quandary.

Currently, juniors are already established in the surrounding community off campus. Given the opportunity to move back into campus housing, how many of them will jump to it?

In addition, current sophomores now have more options than ever to satisfy their housing needs.

Faced with multiple choices and a newfound upperclassman's prerogative, what's a Hopkins student to do? Perhaps my experiences will be able to help a few of you out.

As a member of the ever-dangerous class of '07, I am currently situated in an apartment in the greater Hopkins community.

Hailing from the third floor of McCoy after our sophomore year, my two roommates and I had the good fortune of landing a beautiful, spacious two-bedroom apart-

ment in the Cambridge, a high-rise apartment building at 39th and Charles. Everything seemed perfect.

All the considerations for college students with tight purse strings were made — rent at about \$525 a month, water and heating included, and the cable and Internet were already set up for us by the previous tenant.

As female athletes, the location was dually ideal. The Cambridge is on the periphery of the cutest, safest neighborhood around here and just a short walk from the gym, which makes coming home after a long day on the road that much easier.

The icing on top of the Cambridge cake is certainly Della, Sarah, Barbara, Joe, Frank and all the other friendly desk and door attendants who provide added security in a warm and welcoming environment.

We made it here, but when our lease is up on June 1 we'll be

moving on out. Unfortunately, we won't be "movin' on up" in the scheme of luxury off-campus living.

Just this year our building's ownership changed hands and the new buyers, in an effort to transform luxury apartments into luxury condominiums, will not be renewing leases. We were stunned. We were crushed. But, more than anything, we

were pissed off.

For me, moving off campus meant an opportunity to move once and settle for two years.

As a college student with a lot on my plate, I welcomed the opportunity to make one less consideration after finals end in May. I was grateful to have a haven for my "stuff" regardless of if I were here, in Northern Virginia or traveling this summer. Above all, I welcomed Baltimore as my home, as the place where I am settled, at least for the time being.

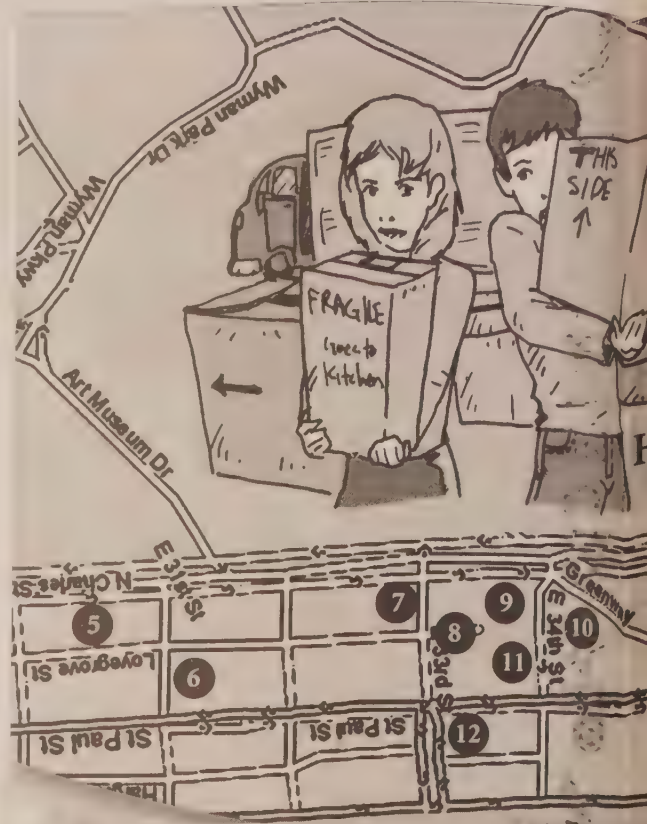
But, alas, I find myself once more unsettled. My roommates and I are making the same considerations that we mullered over just one year ago. Can we find another apartment big enough for three girls that is also moderately priced? Should we opt for a house this time? What is more important to us — safety, or convenience of location? And what about the Charles Commons — a supposed miracle cure for student life at Hopkins?

If Hopkins wants to attract me to move back into University housing, the Charles Commons needs to operate more like a landlord than an RA.

Leasing and payment options should be offered in consideration of those upperclassmen that truly intend to make Baltimore their home and are seeking jobs and internships in the summer.

I welcome anything that can offer a possibility of permanence and stability to a college life that sees constantly changing seasons, semesters and personal pursuits.

# HOUSING



1. Broadview Apartments
2. The Carolina
3. University West
4. The Northway
5. Homewood

6. Wyman Towers
7. The Blackstone
8. Charles Commons
9. The Charles
10. McCoy

## Busting off campus:

**The Blackstone**  
3333 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
(410) 235-8920  
Price range: \$575-\$1,495

Though recently purchased by the University, the Blackstone still retains its old-school charm, pest problem and all. And, regardless of its future, the fantastic location cannot be changed. Just a hop across N. Charles gets you to the Mattin Center, and this convenience cannot be beat. The rooms are spacious (with hardwood floors!), and many of the units even have a "solarium," which usually becomes one gigantic closet. But, all of this comes for a price, and a hefty one at that. And, in the past year, tenants have been stuck dealing with the incredibly loud construction next door. Overall, living in the Blackstone is a positive, albeit expensive and noisy, experience.

—Melissa Artnak

**Broadview Apartments**  
116 W. University Pkwy.  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
(410) 243-1216  
Price range: \$625-\$1,250

The Broadview has 15 floors, the bottom 14 with standard apartments and a top floor of penthouse suites. Each apartment comes with carpeting and air conditioning units. The Broadview offers studio, single-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments.



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There is a 24-hour reception desk, doormen most of the day, and a security guard that keeps watch at night. The basement houses a dry-cleaning service and a laundry room. Also inside the building is a French restaurant, Brasserie Tatin, a massage service and a convenience store. The Broadview is accessible by tenants from both 39th Street and University, and is about a five-to-eight minute walk from campus.

—William Parschalk



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**The Carlyle**  
500 W. University Pkwy  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
(410) 467-9890

The Carlyle offers students the chance to live inside a hotel. Although maids don't clean your rooms for you, there are several rooms in the 16-story building that are designated as hotel rooms. So if your parents come to stay, they can literally stay just down the hall. The Carlyle has other amenities that come with living in a hotel, such as a fitness center, a pool on the roof, a 24-hour security desk complete with a doorman, a tasty restaurant and a unisex salon. One-year leases are available for both one- and two-bedroom apartments. Gas is included; however, tenants pay the electrical bills. The building may be a bit far from campus, but it's a close walk to the Rotunda. If you have a car, there is limited parking available.

—Sarah Rivard

**The Carolina**  
108-114 W. University Pkwy.  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
(410) 235-8000  
Price range: \$750-\$1,600

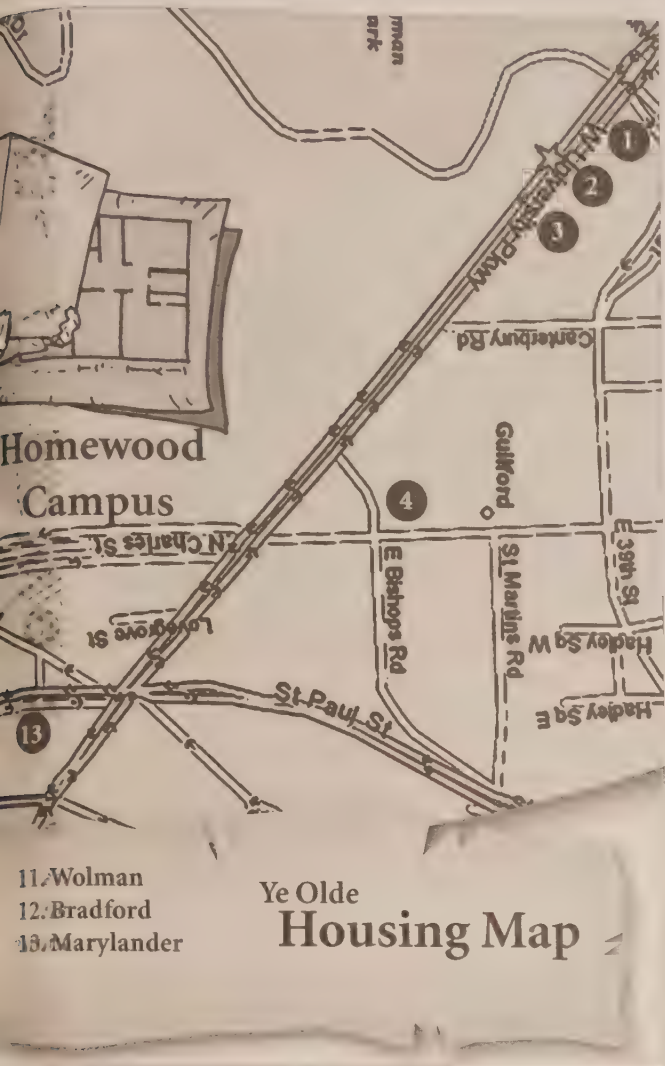
The Carolina may look like a throw back to the AMRs on the outside, but on the inside, the hardwood floors and spacious kitchens are far from the freshman dorms.

Down the street from the lacrosse field, the Carolina offers one-year leases for one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. Heat and hot water are included in rent, while tenants pay the electrical bill. The maintenance staff at the building is quick to respond to any complaint.

Entrance to the building is controlled by key, which leaves the possibility of the front doors being left open without anyone noticing.

—Sarah Rivard

# g Focus



WILLIAM PARSCHALK/NEWS-LETTER

## :apartment options

**The Charles**  
3333 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
(410) 235-8920  
Price range: \$650-\$1,500

This residence is best known for its convenience. Located across the street from the MSE library, the Charles is closer to campus than Wolman and McCoy. PJs Pub, a perennial favorite for Hopkins students seeking a beer and a burger, is also located in the Charles, making it a popular after-hours hangout. The building also includes plenty of amenities, including garage rentals, a 24-hour emergency maintenance staff and laundry facilities. Although



FILE PHOTO/ROBIN SHAW

rent may be slightly high for the square-footage, the building's proximity to campus is a great incentive for students.

**Cresmont Lofts**  
2807 Cresmont Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21211  
(410) 889-7800  
Price range: \$675-\$775/person

Cresmont Lofts, is a new building that opened last year. Each suite has four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room and a full kitchen with a dishwasher, plus heat, air conditioning, water, electricity, local phone, cable and high-speed internet included in the rent. But perhaps the most alluring feature of Cresmont Lofts is having 7-11 right outside your door. Midnight snacks, supplementary groceries and any last-minute necessities are always available all day and everyday. But living in Cresmont means a 10-minute walk to get to the lower quad, and 20 minutes to Bloomberg. Parking spots in the building's lot are available, but for an extra \$75 per month. Luckily, everything you'll need is nearby. Except classes, but who needs those?

— Zach Goodman

**The Marylander**  
3501 St. Paul St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
(410) 235-7829  
Price range: \$685-\$1,224

Located a mere block east of Homewood, the Marylander offers apartments close to the array of shops and restaurants on St. Paul Street. The building also has conveniences inside, including laundry facilities and a newly renovated exercise room. Its maintenance staff is also commendable. Most requests for services — be it a leaky sink or faulty stove — are responded to promptly by an in-house building services staff member. The Marylander is certainly not the most glamorous apartment building, but its units are functional and generally roomy. Some residences on the lower floors are known to attract mice. The apartments come at decent prices and offer easy access to all that's needed for life in Charles Village.

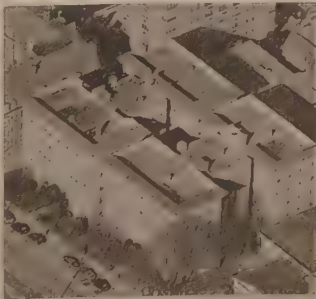
— Xiao-Bo Yuan

**University West Apartments**  
104 and 106 University Pkwy.  
Baltimore MD, 21218  
(410) 467-2800  
Price range: \$894 - \$1,424

The University West Apartments consist of 2 buildings, at 104 and 106 University Parkway. Units include one-bedroom studio apartments, one-bedroom deluxe apartments, and two- and three-bedroom apartments. All units feature a living room, and some also have a sunroom.

Most of the kitchens have been recently renovated with new cabinets, microwaves and dishwashers.

Every unit has brand new windows, and the management is in the process of renovating



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all the bathrooms. The building covers the cost of heat as well as hot and cold water. The buildings are equipped with security cameras, and you must have a key to enter. About 80 percent of the building's residents are students.

— Sam Engel

## Hard to beat home sweet Homewood

By ESTHER BOCHNER  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

As a result of its remote location, Homewood is often deemed less desirable than the Bradford — and sometimes even McCoy — but proximity to the library should not be the determining factor in deciding the attractiveness of a housing situation.

The Homewood Apartments are more beautiful, more spa-

cious and more secure than their closer-to-campus counterparts. The rooms are private enough that residents are often entirely ignorant of hallway noises, but inviting enough that students can have meals or movie viewings with dozens of friends.

Kitchens are fully functional, and stoves, ovens, full-sized refrigerators and large dinner tables allow for easy, convenient food preparation and preservation, saving residents from the dependency upon Terrace and Megabytes that plagued freshman year.

Even the drawbacks to the Homewood experience are, when further investigated, actually advantages.

The longer walk to class allows for some much needed exercise.

The longer walk to class allows for some much needed exercise — one could even argue that the accelerated heart rate it produces actually increases brain activity, thereby causing better performance on exams, but I'm sure all of you math and science majors already knew that.

Similarly, the extra physical activity guarantees that Homewood residents are in better shape than their non-Homewood dwelling peers, so

if there ever were a full-scale dorm battle, there is no question as to who would emerge victorious.

And finally, we may live of hallway noises, but inviting enough that students can have meals or movie viewings with dozens of friends. Kitchens are fully functional, and stoves, ovens, full-sized refrigerators and large dinner tables allow for easy, convenient food preparation and preservation, saving residents from the dependency upon Terrace and Megabytes that plagued freshman year.

These advantages all lead to the unequivocal supremacy of Homewood over any other campus housing option.

Don't cry about it though, we may be superior, but we're still friendly. And, if you stop by for a visit, you might just begin to appreciate a small percentage of what it is you're missing!

### CHARLES COMMONS

For over a year now, Charles Commons has been hailed as the panacea to Hopkins' housing woes.

The watershed of this contentious topic touches on every area of the undergraduate experience from student life to security, and many administrators seem to anticipate that the opening of Charles Commons (which is actually a pair of buildings) will be a defining moment for Hopkins students.

The truth is that the building's many new features will likely help reshape the way students think of housing options at Hopkins. A Starbucks and Barnes & Noble on the bottom floors will offer our first taste of Cambridge and Georgetown — the critical

first step towards becoming a true college town. An enormous dining facility will regularly bring students from every class together under the same roof. The Commons may actually present an opportunity to develop a sense of community here at Hopkins.

From the expansive views of downtown Baltimore to the cushiness of the couches in each floors' lounge, every little detail is intended to accommodate the desires of the students who will be living there.

But you want to know the real details: room sizes, living arrangements and whom you'll be sharing your bathroom with.

Residents will live in two- and four-bedroom suites with a shared bathroom for each, individual bed-



LIZA WEHRLY/NEWS-LETTER

Spacious apartments like this efficiency make the Bradford a popular place to live.

## ... But some folks say the Bradford is better

By CARA MERRIMAN  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Homewood may be newer but the Bradford has better things going for it than youth. It's no wonder why the Bradford fills up first in the housing lottery.

The first thing to know about the Bradford is that everyone gets his or her own room! Nothing beats a quiet study place or escape from your roommates.

Another tempting aspect of Bradford living is its full kitchens. With a full-size fridge, stove, oven and plenty of counter space, some residents are eager to kiss

Sodexo goodbye. Even if you don't have any interest in cooking for yourself, the extra space is invaluable. The table, chairs and couch are great for when friends come over, or just for relaxing somewhere other than your desk or the library.

AMR II may have their benches, but they pale in comparison to the Bradford's almighty stoop. The stoop is perfect to smoke a cigarette and make fun of freshman as they walk by, holler at cute girls, count the number of near collisions every afternoon at the intersection of 33rd and St. Paul, or just chill with your deep thoughts.

A housing talk with any upperclassmen will reveal that while price, security and appearance all factor in to finding the perfect place — location is key. Most students would agree that the Bradford is one of the most centrally located apartment buildings in Charles Village. No complaining about being too far from the gym here!

The Bradford is opposite the super-secret-soon-to-be-announced stores of Charles Commons, within view of two late-night munchies destinations and a block away from PJs. Its proximity to the scattered Hopkins frat houses makes it a great place to start your weekend nights.

The upper floors of the Bradford offer breathtaking views of the Baltimore skyline.

The Bradford is an amazing place to live due to its unique character and unbeatable convenience.

— Brendan Schreiber

## The lowdown on the new housing showdown

By LIZA WEHRLY  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

As it has in years past, the housing lottery is approaching now that spring term is under way. Yet, this year's lottery will vary from those that have preceded it. Gone are the days when on-campus housing was restricted to underclassmen, rooming groups were limited to four people and the battle for the title of best on-campus housing was fought between residents of the Bradford and Homewood apartments.

The much-anticipated opening of the Charles Commons in the fall of 2006 means that on-campus housing will be open to rising seniors, juniors and sophomores — a change that carries many implications for campus housing policies, including the housing lottery.

Traditionally, the housing lottery is an event in early spring that creates much anxiety for rising sophomores, as students struggle to make the best of their randomly assigned housing lottery number.

While the tension will most likely remain, the housing lottery will be markedly different in the future.

Upperclassmen will be able to live on campus, and if they choose to remain in University housing, students will take part in the housing lottery.

"Current sophomores and juniors are going to register first, and go through a process very similar to last year," said Carol Mohr, senior director of Housing and Dining services.

Upperclassmen will be able to choose from Charles Commons, Bradford, Homewood, McCoy and one wing of Wolman. "We are hoping that each of the different buildings will have different appeal," Mohr said.

Although more people will be participating in the lottery, Mohr said, "We think that we will be able to accommodate most of the students that really want to stay in university housing."

After upperclassmen choose their on-campus residence, current freshmen will choose from the spaces that remain.

Mohr said, "We're so excited about the Charles Commons opening because it gives us the opportunity to bring upperclassmen back into housing," Mohr said. "We think that's really going to have a positive impact on the residential community."

An additional change to be made to on-campus housing is the option of living with a group of eight students. In the past students have been limited to housing groups of up to four peers. This year the University will be testing a program that allows students to reserve abutting suites in McCoy, so that they will have the ability to live with seven friends.

If students choose this housing option, they will have the ability to reserve their space before the main housing lottery process even begins.

Responding to student interest, the housing office is "piloting [the group of eight option] this year to see if it's something that students are interested in doing," said Mohr.

With numerous changes being made to the old system, the housing office is trying keep students informed. "The housing office will be hosting a number of information sessions and tours and providing lots of opportunities to really try and help students be familiar with what their options are," Mohr said.

Beyond these major changes, the rudimentary procedure of the housing process will remain as it has in the past. Before the housing lottery in March, students will register online in groups of one, two, three or four students.

During registration students fill out a room preference questionnaire in which they indicate their preferred rooming situation in each of the available on-campus housing buildings. Once registered, students will shortly receive a lottery number and make selections according to their randomly assigned number.



TIM FERMIN/NEWS-LETTER

Still under construction, the Charles Commons will be ready by next fall.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Centerstage's *Isaac* eviscerates Israeli warfare

By **PATRICK KENNEDY**  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Not a news cycle runs by without some mention of the nationalist violence and political turmoil that rocks the modern Middle East. Yet we seldom see the aftermath of each clash or casualty report — the disfigured lives behind the geopolitics of the Muslim world.

It is a noble willingness to present the stories of such scarred individuals that gives Centerstage's newest drama, *The Murder of Isaac*, its greatest power. Authored by the celebrated Israeli playwright Motti Lerner, the show takes place inside a trauma ward, where the patients have decided to put on a play for their visitors. Their subject: the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was shot down in the wake of a 1995 rally.

Though Lerner's television work is celebrated in his home country, this is the American debut of this particular play. Yet you can't help greeting a mammoth ensemble drama like *The Murder of Isaac* with trepidation. Such a character-crammed set is easy to screw up, and in its weaker moments, it does seem like you're



Actors David Margulies, Tzahi Moskowitz and Charlotte Cohn star in Centerstage's new political tragedy *The Murder of Isaac*.

watching *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* goes to Jerusalem. However, weak moments and strong moments alike are soon drowned out by full-bore emotion, unrestrained absurdity and political anguish. In Lerner's Israeli hospital, with its wide demographic of patients, fiery passions and grand ideas outweigh coherence and common sense. More often than not, the same goes for the play itself.

Reconciling Lerner's moral urgency with a mode as conceptually nimble and experimental as the play-within-a-play is, to say the least, an ambitious task, even for a Centerstage veteran like director Irene Lewis. The performances, though forceful, are fleeting:

more like conveniently grouped, balanced-bias confessionals than a web of conflict. Though in a very inventive step, the prejudices and opinions of Lerner's characters are mirrored by the parts they take in the narrative of Rabin's demise. While they are, in the words of the opening song, "the living dead," *The Murder of Isaac*'s protagonists boldly reflect the state of the Israeli nation.

There is no better example of this than Binder (David Margulies), an older patient who proudly assumes the role of the doomed Prime Minister. Like Rabin, he fought in the 1948 war for independence — but equally like his assumed character, Binder is devoted to the prospect of peace and a belief in cultural understanding. While Binder feels shame for the deaths he caused during combat, and finds a kindred pacifist in Lola (Mia Dillon), a trauma center volunteer who has lost two sons to battle, not all the inmates abjure belligerence.

Another veteran, Yuda (Olek Krupa), who plays Rabin's political adversary, remembers his military days with wild enthusiasm. The center of the drama is constantly pulled between these two heavy performances, but neither provides the necessary

ideological anchor for a single message, which might not be so bad after all.

Openly set in a generic hospital recreation room, with bland wall and folding tables, *The Murder of Isaac* includes such characters as a deranged Orthodox Jewish gravedigger (Jeffrey Ware), a nervous army colonel (Gordon Joseph Weiss) and a lonely young nationalist (Lise Bruneau).

There is no coherent pattern of interaction, no real structure — a moot point, since after all, we are now among the painfully disconnected. Ideologically averse, Lerner's characters are designed not to belong together, which makes the play they perform an ironic and disheartening act of cooperation.

But is Lerner deflecting controversy? Nobody has entirely forgotten the hell storm that Steven Spielberg's *Munch* raised among the punditry, and by including every inch of the Israeli electorate, *The Murder of Isaac* may be taking a safer route. Still, I cannot help thinking that humanism, not safety from the Op-Ed pages, is the motive here. Even to those who have faith in it, and especially when mated to some of the protagonists' hardline religion, violence is a plague.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B9



COURTESY OF CENTERSTAGE

Jeffrey Ware plays one of Lerner's outspoken trauma patients.

## Bourgeois' distinct sculpture melds with Walters collection

By **ALEXANDER TRAUM**  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

As a museum that prides itself on its collection of 55 centuries of art, the Walters Art Museum seems to have conspicuously ignored this last hundred years of creative production — until now. The Walters Art Museum, in collaboration with the nearby Contemporary Museum, has integrated about 40 works by Louise Bourgeois into its permanent collection, creating an innovative and compelling installation that has reinvigorated this traditional-minded institution.

Bourgeois, born in Paris in 1911, studied art at the prestigious École du Louvre and Académie des Beaux-Arts. Later, in 1938, she emigrated to the United States and studied at the Arts Student League in Manhattan. While Bourgeois began her career as an engraver and a painter, her shift towards sculpture in the 1940s paved the way for her reputation as one of the most important artists of the 20th century.

The Walters' installation, entitled *Femme*, explores the issues most commonly associated with Bourgeois work: sexuality, femininity, suffering. The innovativeness of the installation is derived rather from the works' integration into the museum's collection of art ranging from classical Greek to ancient Egyptian to 18th century French. The contrast between an artist who has the uncanny ability to take people out of their comfort zone with provocative works, and works that are more conventional in nature like ancient Greek nudes or medieval icon paintings, creates a dialogue that enhances both Bourgeois's art as well as the museum's permanent collection.

The installation achieves this by incorporating Bourgeois' work into the collection systematically and selectively. The juxtaposition of the works is coherent due to common themes and materials. Even some of the Bourgeois's



COURTESY OF THE WALTERS MUSEUM

Pieces like *Femme Couteau* are featured in the exhibition *Louise Bourgeois: Femme*.

pieces mirror other works stylistically, although this sometimes straddles the line of gimmick. An example is her sculpture *Fragile Goddess*, which seems to mimic an Anatolian sculpture of a woman dating from around 7000 to 3000 B.C.

Other pieces reflect other works in the collection in ways that are provocative and exciting. This category includes her *Blind Man's Buff* and *Nature Study*, both which seem to blend into their surroundings — ancient Greek sculpture and Egyptian sculpture, respectively. I admit that part of the excitement created by works like these is the manner in which the museum visitor stumbles upon them. I recall *Nature*

*Study*, which when approached from behind seems like just another ancient Egyptian sculpture of a mythical beast. But when you circle the piece and you see the front of this headless, multi-breasted creature, you realize:

"This is a Bourgeois!"

There are other juxtapositions that are not solely in the shock business, and are genuinely thought-provoking in their contrasts. This includes *St Sebastienne*, a doll-like figure made of pink cloth and whose body is violently plunged with long, sharp arrows. This small figure is placed in a room of Renaissance and Baroque paintings of saints, including one of St. Sebastian. This placement allows the viewer to ponder the relationship between gender and religion as well as meanings of sacrifice and suffering. Another noteworthy piece is her *Femme Maison*, a small sculpture of a woman with her head enveloped by a box. This

piece is placed in a room of medieval reliquary boxes, thus articulating similar issues as the *St. Sebastienne* placement.

The curators of this installation were similarly clever and insightful when designing captions about the pieces. On these captions are quotes from Bourgeois herself, relating mostly implicitly to the piece at hand. This subtlety allows the viewer to gain important insight regarding the artworks, without avoiding the challenge of interpretation. As much of Bourgeois' art is autobiographical in nature, the captions provide the viewer with an understanding of the mindset that created such works. "If you consider art a privilege instead of something that society will use, you have to save and suffer for your art, for what you love; you have to deny yourself in the cause of art," reflects Bourgeois in a particularly intriguing caption.

The Walters' *Femme* has set a precedent for what a "conventional" museum can and should do. This is not a recommendation for the disintegration of historical cohesion in the museum, as often such categorical separation can provide a valuable understanding of the history of art. Rather, I suggest that museums should occasionally take a risk and challenge conventionality. A museum should be a living entity that proposes new ways of seeing and interpretation. This approach, of course, has its limits, and such experimentation should not be done for its own sake, but only when it has a greater purpose. The Walters' installation has a greater purpose: to present the genius of Bourgeois in a manner that invigorates both her work as well as the museum's collection.

## Barnstormers' *Proof* is calculated to impress

The company's newest play gives mathematics a dramatic lift

By **LISA CAREY**  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Barnstormers certainly proved something to their full house in the Arellano Theater: You don't need a big stage, a lot of time or a professional director to put on an amazing show. *Proof*, the Barnstormers' Intercession show, directed by first-timer junior George Telonis and starring Elspeth Kursh, Chris Hamel, Matt Bassett and Rina Telonis, was a glorious tribute to the talent and nerdiness of the Hopkins community.

The story, from a Pulitzer-prize winning script by David Auburn, follows slightly discouraged, slightly crazy Catherine (senior Kursh), the daughter of a recently deceased mathematical genius (junior Hamel), as she works her way from student and helper to master mathematician.

The entire show takes places on the porch of Catherine's home. The set is sparse: two chairs, a table and a door.

The design was very limited since Arellano is used for classes as well as performances and must be cleared every night, so all pieces are removable. However, *Proof* is so well written that an elaborate set would only detract from the story.

The show opens with dialogue between Catherine and her father. The exchange is awkward and jilted; neither Hamel nor Kursh seem comfortable in their characters — Hamel as a stuffy old man and Kursh as his disgruntled daughter. Then it is revealed that the father has died a week ago and Catherine is just seeing things.

The awkward tension makes sense; seeing dead people is not usually very comfortable. In the show's frequent flashbacks, Hamel returns and delivers the insane genius' lines with great aplomb. You would almost think he knew what nonlinear algebraic systems of semi-differential equations were.

Then enters Hal (senior Bassett), an old student of Catherine's father, who is dedicated to looking for hidden mathematical gems amidst the wild scribbling of his mentor's notebooks.

Bassett fits the quirky, cool-in-a-dorky-way character perfectly. This was especially well done in a scene where he tells Catherine about this cool rock band of mathematicians that play a song called "I" where they just stand there silent for three minutes. "Get it? It's an imaginary number ..."

He then sheepishly admits to being the drummer. Bassett also mastered spitting out line after line of difficult math terms; quite

a tribute to the acting of the senior Writing Sems major.

Catherine's older sister Claire (sophomore Rina Telonis) flies in from New York for the funeral and to bring her younger sister back to New York to be put in extensive therapy for fear she might lose her mind as their father did.

As the condescending know-it-all, Telonis masters the slow "I'm speaking to a mentally handicapped person" speech. The tension works and Kursh warms up in her sisterly role.

After the funeral, Catherine and Hal fall for each other, bonding over their appreciation of math, and the chemistry is amazing.

Bassett blushes like a bashful schoolboy when Kursh asks about what he does for sex and Kursh glows on the morning after, walking dreamily around in her robe. They have a refreshing high-school sweetheart innocence, so when Bassett delivers corny lines like, "I want to spend every minute with you," the audience "aws" and doesn't groan.

The first act flows chronologically, through the introduction of all the characters, the funeral party and the morning after but

ends with a shocking revelation. During intermission the audience was left hanging, wondering what would happen next, but when the lights come up on the second act it's a flashback.

The story continues over

several scenes from the past that shed a touching light, taking it from a simple boy meets girl plot to a compelling coming of age drama. The actors particularly shine in the second act, taking the time shifts and the meaning-infused dialogue easily in stride.

But the play is not devoid of humor. Clever dialogue and hilarious scenarios kept the audience laughing.

A high point was when Claire and Catherine recounted the after-funeral party and the drinking capacity of the math geeks. The scene is especially amusing since almost everyone in the audience, after partying with Hopkins' nerdiest, have thought the same thing: "pathetic physicists."

*Proof* is an excellently written show and Telonis' directing did it justice. His chosen actors had amazing onstage chemistry, which brought the message-heavy dialogue to life.

When the final lights went down the audience was almost disappointed, wanting more of the rich, entertaining story. But the message had been understood; the talented Barnstormers had nothing more to prove.



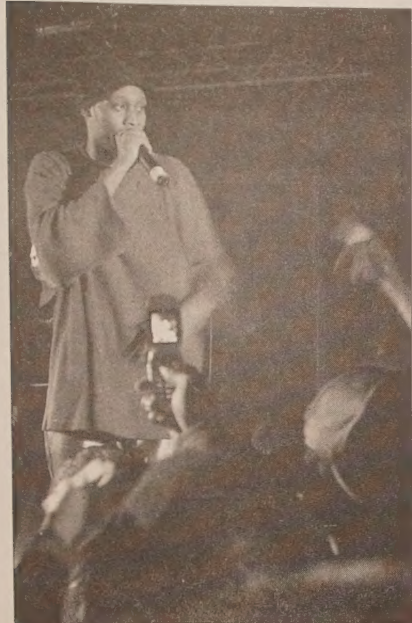
COURTESY OF EMILY ETHERIDGE

The cast members of the Barnstormers' *Proof* relax on stage during a rehearsal. From left to right: jun. Chris Hamel, sen. Matt Bassett and soph. Rina Telonis.

# Wu-Tang Clan reunion takes Baltimore by storm

By MARK MEHLINGER  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The eight remaining members of the legendary Wu-Tang Clan performed last Sunday at the Sonar Lounge on the Baltimore leg of their "Return to the 36 Chambers O.D.B. Tribute Reunion Tour." The group pioneered their own style of hip-hop through common interest in Wu-Tang Kung Fu movies, from which many of their names, song and album titles, and concepts derive. Their 1993 debut album, *Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)* has long been heralded as a hip-hop classic. Since then, the group has released numerous group and solo albums. Their huge fol-



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER  
RZA addressed a packed crowd at Sonar on Sunday.

lowing has generated many side groups or "Wu-Affiliates," who have also released projects. As their first group tour in over ten years, it was surprising that the concert was not sold out like its follow-up in D.C. Bad weather did not inhibit the event, since listeners still attended in great numbers. By 11 pm, as a wall of fans booed off the opening acts and chanted, "Wu-Tang! Wu-Tang!" in unison, the group slowly entered the stage. Entering individually, each member was welcomed by one of their solo hits. While the stage began to fill, fans were ecstatic upon the later arrival of members, Ghostface Killah, Raekwon, RZA and Method Man. The performance started with RZA's disappointing single from his *Birth of a Prince* album, "We Pop We Roll." The song differs from the typical gritty, martial arts-influenced Wu style as more of a bland, mainstream club banger, a true anomaly in RZA's expansive catalogue. Next up, Raekwon performed the hit from his classic album *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx...*, "Incarcerated Scarfaces," followed by "Criminology" alongside frequent collaborator Ghostface. Even though it was early in the show, the Clan proved they could easily influence the crowd, as plenty of energy was exchanged between the stage and



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER  
During a tribute concert to O.D.B., Wu-Tang Clan member Method Man revisited the hip-hop innovations that are his trademark.

the floor. Following Raekwon's classics, the Wu performed the hard hitting "Wu Tang Clan Ain't Nuthin Ta F\* Wit," one of many hits off their debut album. Method Man, definitely the most popular and energetic on stage performed the single "Method Man," his first solo track, also off the Clan's debut album. Other songs in this part of the concert included "One Blood Under W," the reggae influenced hit off 2000's *The W* album and "Shadowboxing," a collaboration effort off of GZA's 1995 hit debut album, *Liquid Swords*.

As the Wu took a short break from their energetic performances, member Ghostface Killah took an opportunity to speak on the current state of hip-hop. He claimed that today's mainstream hip-hop is bland and lacks originality. He argued that it was in a low position because of the overflow of generic

and uniform songs. To provide an example, he played D4L's hit club banger, "Laffy Taffy" and asked the crowd, "What is this? You call this music? What's sad is that you all might be here now, but as soon as you leave you'll go back listening to this crap." Ghostface said that the only way hip-hop will get any better is if the masses stop falling for these wack club bangers that lack musicianship and pay homage to more original artists. I couldn't agree more.

The Clan performed perhaps one of the most respected songs in hip hop, the hit single off their 1993 debut album, "C.R.E.A.M." After the collaboration "4th Chamber" another track off of GZA's 1995 debut album, the crew began their tribute to the late O.D.B. Wearing a t-shirt around his waist reading "R.I.P. O.D.B.," RZA held it up to the crowd. Surprisingly, he said

that he did not bring the shirt, but that some fans made it for him. The Clan continued their tribute to fallen member O.D.B. by performing two of his classic hits, "Shimmy Shimmy Ya" and "Brooklyn Zoo."

Although claiming that their time on stage was done, the group continued to perform continuous hits including *Enter The Wu Tang (36 Chambers)* hits "Tears (After the Laughter)," "Da Mystery of Chessboxing" and "Shame on a Nigga," in addition to "Bring the Pain" off of Method Man's 1994 debut album *Tical*.

To conclude the show, the Wu performed their most anticipated single, off of 1997's *Wu-Tang Forever* double disc album, "Triumph." With the audience jumping and waving their hands in rhythm, and Method Man crowd surfing the sea of fans, the Clan successfully closed out their memorable show.

# Flawed play explores Middle East dilemmas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B8  
To Lerner, it can spread personal chaos regardless of political utility. *The Murder of Isaac* may be a play of important ideas and sympathetic themes. However, on an aesthetic level, that does not let it off easy. I am not sure why Lerner felt compelled to include one song and dance routine comparing extreme Zionism to a masturbating college girl (and the Gaza Strip to a vagina), or, for that matter, why the volume of hysterical outbursts never seemed to abate. In trying to communicate a pressing theme so strongly, Lerner has subjugated material to message, clinging to the visceral while the artistic process slips through his fingers. Some of the most promising characters, like a wheelchair-bound young medic (Tzahi Moskovitz) and a mutilated opera singer (Charlotte Cohn) are pushed backstage in a whirlwind that, like Paul Haggis' similarly huge *Crash*, asks a lot of social questions but never bothers to look for answers.

I had observed the audience carefully when I saw the play myself, trying to gauge the reaction to each new issue, the impact of each striking emotion. For two hours, almost nobody moved, not even to laugh at the folclies of dark comedy that were occasionally detected. Only after the last, cathartic monologue had faded and the cast took its bows did anything seem to register: in a firm, appreciative, but most of all sympathetic applause. If *The Murder of Isaac* is not a superior drama, it transmits a superior consciousness, a segment of a national narrative that, to Lerner's eyes, continues to read like tragedy.

# Gripping Freedomland marked by social tension

By ASHLEY WIETSMA  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Trailers can be horribly deceiving. For example, I remember in sixth grade being extremely disappointed with the *Spice World* trailer, when its bathroom scene in which Posh Spice hikes up her purple lace dress after being told that it wasn't too short did not actually appear in the movie. Trailers are purposely misleading, created to show us exactly what we want to see at the theater.

The preview for *Freedomland* is an excellent example of an advertising ploy. After watching the trailer, one could feel hesitant to see such a chilling movie. Images of screaming women, misty woods and flashing police cars are crunched together spelling out the ingredients for an intriguing psychological thriller. The preview shows the basic premise of a hunt for an abducted child in an eerie-abandoned children's asylum situated in a racially divided neighborhood.

You cautiously enter the theatre expecting to be scared even before the movie rolls. Gripping your date's hand as the lights dim, you inhale deeply preparing yourself for two hours of fear; however, half way through the movie you realize that yet again the advertisers have played you.

Directed by Joe Roth, who brought us *Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise* and *Christmas with the Kranks*, *Freedomland* has an all-star cast. Detective Lorenzo Council (Samuel L. Jackson) is the softhearted cop who is divided between his professional duties of imprisoning rebellious young black men and cultural loyalty to his poor, struggling community. He is called on to question a frail and jittery ex-addict, Brenda Martin (Julianne Moore) about a car jacking in the all-black neighborhood of Armstrong Heights, New Jersey.

After a full five minutes of questioning, she stutters that her four-year-old son was in the back of the car. Her brother, the racist detective (Ron Eldard) for

the neighboring white community, Gannon, breaks his jurisdiction and closes off Armstrong Heights, trapping everyone in their homes.

From there, Lorenzo employs Karen Collucci (Edie Falco), the director an organization dedicated to searching for abducted children. Lorenzo must race against time to find the lost boy before the people of Armstrong Heights take violent action against the abusive and prejudiced police.

The racial themes are the support for the story, especially as the plot becomes disjointed. It is truly a unique plot line. A simple abduction creates an avalanche of violence and emotional racist abuse.

The connection between two such different narrative elements is original, but at times a bit weak. How could an entire community be barricaded in simply because the suspect is thought to reside there? Such a grotesque and barbaric act, similar to the

creation of ghettos during World War II, could not exist in today's world, especially New Jersey.

The movie also fails to clarify the significance of Freedomland, the abandoned children's asylum. The viewer is never truly told why Lorenzo chooses to focus on this area in his search for the boy. The connection between the neglected and abused children of the home, and Brenda's failure as a mother is too superficial.

*Freedomland* is worth seeing for its great acting, especially by Julianne Moore and Edie Falco. Both characters are well-developed. Brenda is never completely understood, something that keeps the viewer's interest. Her questionable behavior and inability to communicate her thoughts progress the plot, creating a sense of suspense.

Don't be fooled by the previews. *Freedomland* is much more of a cultural commentary. Why the advertisement industry would try to portray it in a different light must remain a mystery.

**FREEDOMLAND**  
**Starring:** Samuel L. Jackson, Julianne Moore, Edie Falco  
**Director:** Joe Roth  
**Run Time:** 1 hr 53 mins  
**Rating:** R  
**Playing at:** Regal East Point Movies, Loews White Marsh

# Clichéd Annapolis fails to pull rank against naval classics

By SIMON WAXMAN  
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Who remembers *Better Luck Tomorrow*? The 2002 film about the criminal lives of overachieving Asian-American high schoolers was thoughtful, memorable, and original, and its director, Justin Lin, was heralded as a rising star.

But his newest work, *Annapolis* cannot be accurately described as any of those things. What it could be called is hackneyed, uninteresting and thoroughly miserable for all not possessed of an unusually severe streak of masochism.

Jake Huard (James Franco) is a welder at a Maryland shipyard and amateur boxer. His deceased mother dreamed that one day he would attend the U.S. Naval Academy in nearby Annapolis, but his father (Brian Goodman) is, not unlike the viewer, generally disinclined to care.

One day, shockingly, Jake is accepted to Annapolis where he soon finds that the rigors of being a midshipman are severe indeed. He forms a bond with his rotund roommate "Twins" (Vicellous Reon Shannon) while

flirting with superior officer Ali (Jordana Brewster) and making enemies with Lieutenant Cole (Tyrese Gibson). Cole also happens to be Jake's target in the Brigades boxing tournament held yearly at the Academy.

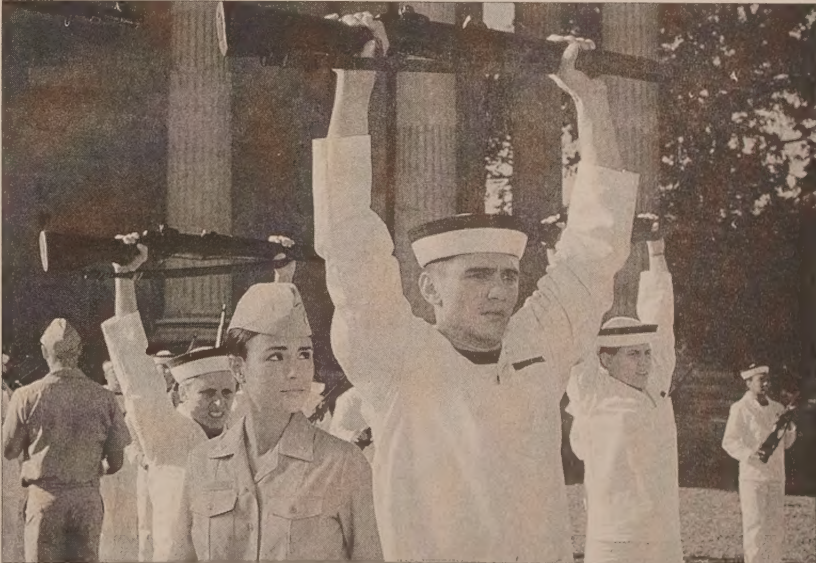
Everything in *Annapolis* has been done before. In fact, it is, to a great extent, a lesser remake of the terrific 1979 Academy Award winner *Breaking Away*. *Annapolis* is composed, essentially, of two clichéd plotlines wrapped in a well-worn, feel-ood message: Down-home boy is underestimated, works his butt off, feels good about himself and gets the girl. The first plot is a lukewarm

rehash of the opening 45 minutes of *Full Metal Jacket* with none of the intensity or cleverness of the Kubrick classic. Jake and compny. get yelled at and do obstacle courses continually, and the story moves along with the celerity of a dying animal trapped in quicksand. After that angle runs dry, Jake prepares for and fights in the Brigades tournament and performs exactly as one might expect. There is a training montage that thinks it is reminiscent of *Rocky*, but, in fact, evokes excitement more on the level of *Rocky V*, whose existence should probably be forgotten.

The performances in the film are uniformly mediocre and the production values inoffensive.

The romance is well below par as Jake and Ali do little more than smile sweetly at each other. Frankly, a liaison between a naval cadet and an officer is almost certainly against regulations, but neither of the characters seems to care and nor do the people around them.

Unfortunately, though he is a physical specimen of some caliber, Jake happens to be dumb as a pole, which doesn't make for an interesting lead. The only multifaceted member of the cast is Twins, who benefits from the opportunity to deliver the film's one worthwhile piece of dialogue.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://MUNDOLOCIO.COM](http://MUNDOLOCIO.COM)  
Jordana Brewster and James Franco star in Justin Lin's formulaic, ill-received military drama *Annapolis*.

Perhaps, *Annapolis* could have found a saving grace in its fight scenes, but they were too few, too short, and too hard to watch. Decent fight scenes, particularly in the ring, require good editing as evidenced by the masterpiece that is Martin Scorsese's 1980 classic *Raging Bull*.

*Annapolis* cannot hold a candle; the fight footage is jerky and the angles literally all over the place. The sequences are so choppy that the visual impact is utterly nullified.

The creators tried to make up for we can't see by playing a thunderclap every time one of the combatants makes contact, but there is no blood, no obvious signs of real violence. The result is a combat sports film so emotionally stunted it could have been more engaging if composed entirely of midshipmen swabbing the head with a Q-tip.

The fact that *Annapolis* was released more than a year after production ended and that the trailer promises a film radically different from that which appeared in theaters suggests that the studio realized how big a flop this is.

*Annapolis* plays somewhat like an armed forces recruiting

video. Our hero, a white man, rooms with Twins who is black, an Asian named Loo (Roger Fan) and a Hispanic named Estrada (Wilmer Calderon) implying that the Naval Academy is a PC haven for misguided youths to automatically shape up. While they're at it, they play games and pursue their attractive superior officers.


Never mind that the Navy is currently at war, a fact unmentioned in the course of the movie. The boxing is an obvious attempt to ape the recent success of better fight films like *Million Dollar Baby* and *Cinderella Man* written by someone who has probably never watched a boxing match in his life.

As *Annapolis* limps formulaically to its predetermined conclusion one cannot help but wonder why this movie was ever made at all. It clearly had a very little budget and was in low demand.


Now that it is here it will probably disappear quietly into obscurity, or perhaps be remembered as a catastrophic failure that wrecked an up-and-coming director's career. Either way, if you are seeking entertainment, don't go to *Annapolis*. It's a ghost town.

# CARTOONS, ETC.


your horoscope




**Aries:** (March 21 - April 19)  
The proper way to celebrate the Flying Tomato's Olympic victory: making a shirt in his honor. Improper: wearing only the shirt.




**Taurus:** (April 20 - May 20)  
Best thing about being the Vice President's hunting partner is the get-well basket you get after he shoots you. Mmm, Cadbury Egg.




**Gemini:** (May 21 - June 20)  
Thing is, even though you personally explored the gay-cowboy terrain this year, you have no chance of getting an Oscar nomination.




**Cancer:** (June 21 - July 22)  
About time we got more Bloomberg money. You've been awaiting the day all professors will be renamed Bloomberg. That day is now.




**Leo:** (July 23 - August 22)  
Valentine's Day was a great time to celebrate the love of your life: yourself. Unfortunately, a near-breakup hampered your dinner plans.




**Virgo:** (August 23 - Sept. 22)  
Day One in your new alcohol rehabilitation program: GET WASTED, MAN! Fortunately, you are also in a sincerity rehabilitation program.




**Libra:** (Sept. 23 - October 22)  
Is it just us, or are you the most beautiful thing we've laid our eyes on? Seriously, person. Let's go out. We like Italian.




**Scorpio:** (October 23 - Nov. 21)  
Drinking water is good for your skin. However, if you don't have skin, there's no need to drink water. Also, it hurts when I pinch you.




**Sagittarius:** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)  
Heavily breathing, the marmacoot stares you down from across the room. The silence before he makes his fatal strike is deafening.



**Capricorn:** (Dec. 23 - January 19)  
In spite of your hundreds of letters of protest, your state senator has decided to continue making "selling drugs" totally illegal.



**Aquarius:** (January 20 - Feb. 18)  
The fact that chocolate sometimes simulates the pleasure of sex does not make it advisable for you to light a cigarette after your Twix.



**Pisces:** (Feb. 19 - March 20)  
Gatehouse custom requires that every editor sing the words to Fiddy's "P.I.M.P." It doesn't require that you dance with your legs like that.

## Master Of Arts

Hey, Lina...what is it that you do again?

I'm working on my doctoral degree in English.

That's right!

Wow, so you're going to be a doctor of English? That's SO cool!

Honey, show the doctor what's wrong with you.

Grandma and me plays in the park all the times!

I'm going to prescribe Mrs. Walker's English class. Take it five days a week until you notice signs of improvement.

Officers, thank God you're here. We have a dangling participle hanging off the roof!

Nurses, I need a subjunctive clause, stat!

Doctors, I'm going to have to recommend some deconstructive surgery.

She's been trying to bring the works of Ken Kesey back to life.

Onomatopoeia.

by Michael Specian

## JHU Public Health

by Eric Chung

\*munch munch\*

b33r

RINGU

Holy crap, here comes the scary part! AHHH SHEET!!!!

RINGU

Dude, she's pretty cute.

RINGU

You know she's like twelve, right? \*munch munch\*

RINGU

And not to mention that she's DEAD.

RINGU

I'd tap that.

WTF!!!

RINGU

## Wasted Ink

by Nate Min


You got a B+?!!

"SNAP"

You're grounded!

## Yearbook Confessions

by William Parschalk



You may not believe this from the look of me, but I was quite the happening dude back in my day here at Hopkins. Your meager frat parties and Beirut games were no match for my exhilarating naked trysts in the President's garden.

Oh, and there was usually a lot of semen involved.

## People Not Frogs

by John Kernan

WE'RE VERY PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE AN ANONYMOUS \$100,000,000 DONATION...

JHU

...IN UNRELATED NEWS, THE HOPKINS INTER-FAITH CENTER SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS THE CHURCH OF BLOOMBERG.

JHU


## Go-go Sudoku!

by Eric Chung

7						5		9
		4						
8	3	9	5	4	1	2		
	7				5		3	1
1		2		3		9		4
3	9		4				2	
		3	2	5	7	4	9	8
						6		
9		8						5

Every 3x3 square must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repeats. Every row and column must contain the number 1 through 9 without repeats.

Last week's solutions (empty spaces top to bottom, right to left): 7, 1, 8, 9, 2, 4; 9, 3, 8, 6; 3, 6, 7, 2, 9; 5, 1, 4, 3, 7; 6, 1, 2, 8, 4; 8, 7, 5, 3, 1; 3, 4, 2, 8, 6; 1, 5, 9, 4; 9, 4, 1, 5, 3, 6



Sudoku: is Not 4 eatings!

# Do Our Souls Really Need Soup?

I don't read a lot of books. This is because they have a lot of words and are not the Internet. As a result, I don't normally focus on books in this column. However, there's one particular series of books that's just too horrible to ignore any longer: *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

I'm sure everyone's seen one of these before. It started out as one book, the original *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. This book was for the generic, standard soul. Then it blossomed into a gigantic empire of *Chicken Soup* books, branching out into all different kinds of souls: the Jewish soul, the teenage soul, the dog lover's soul, etc. These books were all highly acclaimed. Well, most of them. There were a few that didn't work out so well. For example:

- Chicken Soup for the Illiterate Soul
- Chicken Soup for the Vegetarian Soul
- Chicken Soup for the Soup-Hating Soul
- Chicken Soup for the Blind Soul That Can't Read Braille
- Mein Kampf

However, most *Chicken Soup* books sold really well. This is because they appealed to a core demographic of readers, known as "post-Barney sentimentalists" or simply "people who have been lobotomized." To understand what attracts these people to *Chicken Soup* books, let's first review what *Chicken Soup* books are actually about.

*Chicken Soup* books are essentially short story collections. They come in many varieties, but all of them have a common goal: to be inspirational. If you're not sure what I mean, let's look at some actual titles of stories from

*Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*  
"Changes in Life"  
"She Told Me It Was Okay to Cry"  
"She Didn't Give Up on Me"  
"I'll Always Be With You"  
"Be Cool ... Stay in School!"

As you can see, these stories are meant to inspire. For example, they inspire me to throw up all over my laptop. But *Chicken Soup* books are about more than just inspiration. They're also about depressing the hell out of everyone.

Here's a typical *Chicken Soup* story arc: person 1 meets person 2, person 1 becomes friends with person 2, person 2 has terminal illness and/or gets in fight with person 1, person 2 dies and/or

## Matt Diamond One Fry Short

moves away and/or loses the big spelling bee, person 1 learns valuable life lesson and/or dies. Basically everybody dies and we learn the true meaning of Christmas.

Of course, it changes for different books; for example, in *Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul*, person 2 would be a dog, and in *Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul*, person 2 would be, let's say ... Israel. No matter who the characters are, however, the stories are often tragic, following the old adage of "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger." Obviously these people have never been in a coma.

Apart from the atrocious content, let's stop to think about the actual title itself: *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. First of all, as a neurosci-

ence major, I know that the soul doesn't exist. I also know that God is dead, but that paper isn't being published until April, so everybody pretend like you don't know.

As for chicken soup, it's totally overrated. It's nowhere near as good as New England clam chowder, which is by far the greatest soup ever created by mankind. Sure, chicken soup is the "classic" soup, but that doesn't mean it's necessarily the best.

Look at it this way: if soups were bands, chicken soup would be Bach and New England clam chowder would be Radiohead. And I'm talking like OK Computer Radiohead, not that Pablo Honey crap. New England clam chowder is way better than "Creep," though if "Creep" were a soup it would definitely be Manhattan clam chowder, which is basically tomato soup that wishes it were clam chowder. Dream on, Manhattan clam chowder. You're the black sheep of the clam chowder family. Nobody ever liked you.

In conclusion, *Chicken Soup for the Soul* is stupid and needs to be outlawed. As does Manhattan clam chowder, which is a total poseur clam chowder wannabe.

Unfortunately the government is too busy fighting the War on Terrorism to focus on the War on Bad Literature and Soup, which will probably be a hot button issue in 2008. Of course, we could probably kill two birds with one stone by dropping *Chicken Soup* books on Al-Qaeda training camps and watching as the would-be terrorists inspire themselves to death. So if you're reading this, Osama: be cool ... stay in Jihad!

Matt Diamond is too lazy to even read his own columns and can be contacted at [mdiamond@jhu.edu](mailto:mdiamond@jhu.edu).

CALENDAR

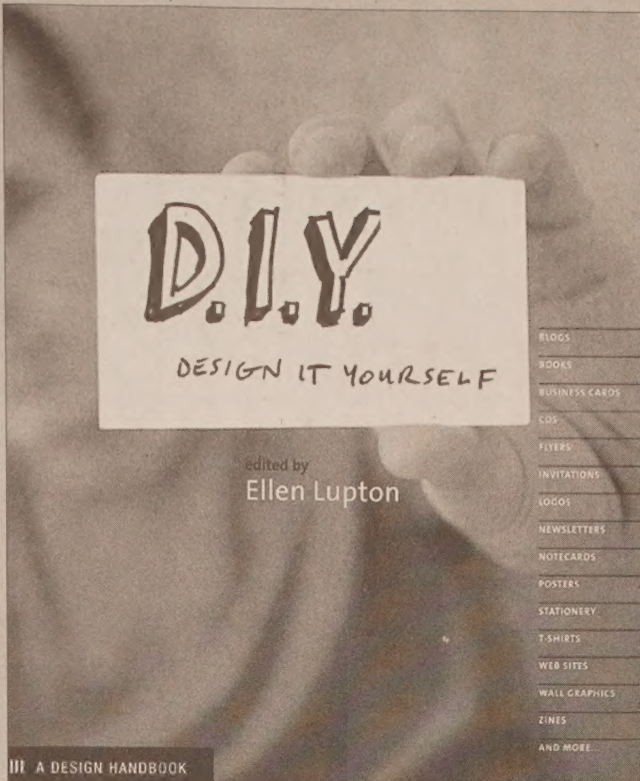
MICA launch D.I.Y. Design It Yourself

This Saturday, Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Maryland Institute College of Art will host a book launch for D.I.Y. Design It Yourself, a guide to graphic design created by MICA students under the direction of MICA professor Ellen Lupton. The event will be an exhibition of the works presented in the book. Everything from hand-designed T-shirts to self-published zines will be on display.

The event is in line with the recent "No Logo movement" that has been in vogue, particularly among college students, since Naomi Klein's book *No Logo: No Space, No Choice, No Job* hit the streets, preaching the ideals of an anti-corporate, pro-creativity philosophy.

While the No Logo movement may seem like a recent development, in reality, the D.I.Y. ethic represented in Lupton's book has been around since the 1970s with the early stirrings of the punk movement. In both the United States and England, teenagers swore off the amenities of factory-produced ideals, fastening their shirts together with safety pins and publishing their writings with the sole aid of a photocopier and staplers. But even punks could not outrun the demons of commercialization. The punk image itself began to become marketable. In this day and age, a Hot Topic can be found in every mall and Avril Lavigne can be heard from every Top 40 radio station.

In retaliation to the image exploitation of modern day, multiple no-brand companies have started up. One such organization, Adbusters, sells



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.PAPRESS.COM  
Design it Yourself, a book compiled by MICA students, will be presented on Sat.

the Blackspot Sneaker, which is a direct imitation of the Chuck Taylor All-Stars made famous by Kurt Cobain and widely-worn by many aspiring hipsters, only in place of the ordinary star is a hand-painted circle signifying the liberation from the commercial logo.

The D.I.Y. exhibit at MICA will display the works of several MICA students. A T-shirt by Michelle Brooks shows the silk-screened image of a single white tag at the nape of the neck and a pair of silver scissors prepared to cut it off. Chris Jackson,

another MICA grad, presents a shirt aptly titled "De-Branded," which is a rectangle of white floating on a black tee, representing the absence of label but presence of creative thought.

Price of admission is \$5. The exhibit will be shown at the Pinkard Gallery at MICA and will continue through March 12. D.I.Y. workshops will be given from Feb. 27 to March 2 from 3 to 6 p.m. For more information call (410) 225-2300 or visit <http://www.mica.edu>.

—Stephanie Yu

Campus Events

Thursday, Feb. 16

5 p.m. A **Web site Launch and Reception** will be held for the History of African-Americans at JHU. This event will be held at Hodson Hall.

5:30 p.m. RAB will sponsor their **Second Annual Aquarium Trip** to the Baltimore National Aquarium. Buses will leave from MSE every half hour from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 and are available at Terrace and Wolman. For more information visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~rab>.

9 p.m. A **cOsMic Coffee House** will be held at the Interfaith Center. Local Hopkins acts will perform. Free coffee and Krispy Kreme doughnuts will be provided. For more information email [bschriverv@jhu.edu](mailto:bschriverv@jhu.edu).

Friday, Feb. 17

5:30 p.m. RAB will sponsor another **Aquarium Trip** to the Baltimore National Aquarium. Buses will leave from MSE every half hour from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 and are available at Terrace and Wolman. For more information visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~rab>.

6:30 p.m. Triple Helix presents a **Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament** at the Glass Pavillion. Players will have the chance to win a first prize of \$300, \$200 for second prize and \$50 for third. Registration is \$15 in advance at <http://jhu.thetriphelex.org> and \$20 at the door. For more information go to <http://jhu.thetriphelex.org>.

8 p.m. Friday Night Films will hold a screening of *Ray*, a movie about the life of musician Ray Charles. The movie is directed by Taylor Hackford. The movie will be shown at Mudd Hall. Admission is \$2. For more information contact Sarah Johnson at [sj84@jhu.edu](mailto:sj84@jhu.edu).

8 p.m. The campus improv comedy group the **Buttered Niblets** will perform at the Arellano Theater. For more information contact [TheButteredNiblets@gmail.com](mailto:TheButteredNiblets@gmail.com).

10 p.m. **Coffee Grounds** takes place every Friday night in the Mattin Center Silk Road Cafe. Come out for the free Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee, and stay for the fun evening activity.

Saturday, Feb. 18

12 p.m. The Barnstormers will be holding auditions for cast and musicians for their spring musical "**Into the Woods**" at Arellano Theater. For more information contact Galen Lande at [glpro@rltechnology.com](mailto:glpro@rltechnology.com) or visit <http://www.jhuintothewoods.com/auditions>.

2 p.m. The members of JOSH will teach a **Classical Indian Dance Workshop** at the Athletic Center's Multipurpose room. Cost for the lesson is \$2. For more information contact Sapna Rohra at [sapna@jhu.edu](mailto:sapna@jhu.edu).

8 p.m. The Black Student Union will hold its **Blueprint II Fashion Show** at Shriver Hall. An after party will take place at the Glass Pavilion. Tickets are \$5 for either the show or the after party and are \$8 for both. For more information contact the Black History Month Committee at [bhm06@jhu.edu](mailto:bhm06@jhu.edu).

continuing auditions for cast and musicians for their spring musical "**Into the Woods**" at Arellano Theater. For more information contact Galen Lande at [glpro@rltechnology.com](mailto:glpro@rltechnology.com) or visit <http://www.jhuintothewoods.com/auditions>.

Monday, Feb. 20

6 p.m. The Stressbusters will host **Stressbusters Training** at the McCoy Multipurpose Room. For more information contact [stressbusters@jhu.edu](mailto:stressbusters@jhu.edu).

6:30 p.m. A **SAC General Meeting** will take place at the Mattin Center room 161. For more information go to [sacexec@jhu.edu](mailto:sacexec@jhu.edu).

Tuesday, Feb. 21

6:30 p.m. **Free Massages** will be given at the HopStop. For more information call Savithri Raja at (410) 516-8209 or e-mail her at [savithri@jhu.edu](mailto:savithri@jhu.edu).

7:30 p.m. A **Student Council General Meeting** will convene at the Shriver Hall Board Room. For more information contact Atin Agarwal at [stucco@jhu.edu](mailto:stucco@jhu.edu).

Wednesday, Feb. 22

4:30 p.m. Former Chaplain Emeritus of Johns Hopkins Chester Wickwire will give a free lecture on **Roots: Discovering Our Universal Heritage** at the Sherwood Room. For more information contact Rose Varner-Gaskins at [rvg@jhu.edu](mailto:rvg@jhu.edu).

Thursday, Feb. 23

6 p.m. A **SAC General Meeting** will take place at the Mattin Center room 161. For more information go to [sacexec@jhu.edu](mailto:sacexec@jhu.edu).

Sunday, Feb. 19

12 p.m. The Barnstormers will be

Concert List

Thursday, Feb. 16

7:30 p.m. **Incognito** sneaks into the Ram's Head Tavern with Maysa Leak. For more go to <http://www.ramshead.com>.

8 p.m. The **Bang Department Hip Hop Showcase** comes to Sonar hosted by J Optimo, No Alligence and DJ TR. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

9 p.m. **P.O.S.** featuring Turbo Nemesis, MAC Leathal, SIMS, Shambhala and other guests will invade the Ottobar. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Friday, Feb. 17

8 p.m. **Electric Six** charges up Sonar with She Wants Revenge and Rock Kills Kids. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

9 p.m. **MC RAD**, featuring Chuck Treece ex-Bad Brains member, will take on the Sidebar. Leiana, the Cut Offs and Supreme Commander will also play. For more information go to <http://www.sidebarbar.com>.

Saturday, Feb. 18

8:30 p.m. A **Theatrical Catastrophe** featuring John Berndt, Nicole Bindler, Ric Royer, Blast-er and friends will be shown at the Red Room at Normal's Books and Records. For more information go to <http://www.redroom.org>.

9:30 p.m. All-girl garage pop band **Degenerettes** will perform at the Talking Head. Dirty Marmaduke and Flute Squad will also appear. For more information go to <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

Sunday, Feb. 19

6 p.m. **Bigwig** fro up at the Ottobar along with Tenwatch, Parkton, Corrupted Youth and

Kill Whitey. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

7 p.m. **Overkill** over do it at Recher Theatre with special guests Prong and Sleep Inflection. For more information go to <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

Monday, Feb. 20

6 p.m. Baltimore's own hardcore band **Ruiner** will perform at the Charm City Art Space with Learn, No Roses, Permanent and Nick X Fury. For more information go to <http://www.ccspace.org>.

7 p.m. **Umphrey's McGee** will play at the Ram's Head with the Bridge. For more information go to <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

7:30 p.m. The **Black Rebel Motorcycle Club** roll into the 9:30 Club with Elephant and Eastern Conference Champions. For more information go to <http://www.930.com>.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

8 p.m. The **Disco Biscuits** shimmy into the Ram's Head. For more information go to <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

9:30 p.m. The Talking Head presents a showcase of Baltimore artists including rappers **Jones & Height** and electronic Sans Serac. For more information go to <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

Thursday, Feb. 23

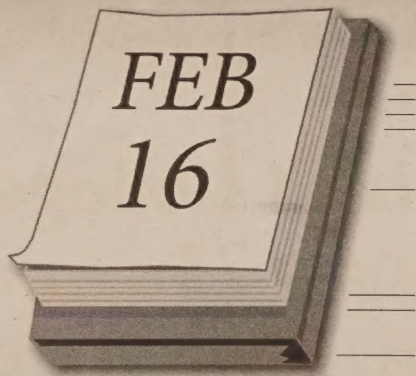
7 p.m. Take on new beginnings at Sonar with **Second Sunrise**. Also performing will be Cutlery, Nautilus, the Bright Lights, Four Fifty One and John Russell. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

8 p.m. The **Morgan Heritage** and Soldiers of Jah Army invade the Recher Theatre with Panic and the Rebels. For more information go to <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

8 p.m. The **Jarflys** will perform at the 8 X 10 Club. For more visit to <http://www.the8x10.com>.

9:30 p.m. **Bo Lee Da** prepare to play at the Talking Head with Heroin UK. For more visit <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

Calendar



Feb. 16 to 23

MOVIE OPENING

Eight Below

Movie debuting at AMC Towson this Friday, Feb. 17  
Showtimes: 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:50 p.m.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ROTTENTOMATOES.COM  
Paul Walker stars as Gerry Shepherd in Eight Below, a movie based on the true story of a dogsled trek through the Antarctic, where bonds of friendship are formed.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ISLANDREAM.COM  
The Banggai Cardinalfish will be one of many Australian animals on display at the Pacific Coral Reef exhibit at the National Aquarium in Baltimore this Thursday.

RAB trip to Aquarium

Don't miss the Residential Advisory Board's Second Annual trip to the Baltimore National Aquarium in the Inner Harbor on Thurs., Feb. 16. Following its success last spring, the RAB again has arranged to reserve the entire aquarium for Hopkins only.

The first Aquarium trip, held last February, brought in nearly 900 Hopkins students, unprecedented number for an RAB-sponsored event. This number, nearly twice what had been expected, meant that about a quarter of the school participated. Students also enjoyed the company of President Brody and his wife, whose presence reinforced the school's attempt to promote community spirit throughout the campus.

New to the aquarium this year is the Australian exhibit entitled Animal Planet Australia: Wild Extremes. This portion will give visitors a chance to see how highly adaptive animals have survived in wild Australia over millions of years of drought, fire, flood and other difficulties. Amazing stories of survival in this extreme envi-

ronment will be on display.

Because of Australia's geographical isolation from the rest of the world, the country supports a large number of native species, more than any other continent on earth, but after years of planning and the public's anticipation, the Baltimore National Aquarium has now brought the foreign creatures to Aquarium visitors. This exhibit depicts the northern region of outback Australia where the harsh land, including the soil, the sand, and the rock, is a deep and rich red.

Buses for the trip leave from the MSE Library every half hour from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., and the Aquarium is open from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are only \$3 for both transportation and admission and can be purchased at Terrace and Wolman as well as from RAB representatives. For much more on the Baltimore National Aquarium, check out <http://www.aqua.org/index.html>. For more information about the Residential Advisory Board, go to <http://webhost5.nts.jhu.edu/rab/vb>.

—Anusha Gopalratnam

## Johns Hopkins University Career Center

### 3 Career Fairs this Spring

**attend one of them or all three....**

Learn more about the employers that will be at these events at [www.jhu.edu/careers](http://www.jhu.edu/careers) or visit the Career Center in Garland Hall, 3rd Floor.

1

#### **Science & Technology Career Fair**

Thursday, February 16

12:00-3:00pm, Glass Pavilion

*Build a career that will use your quantitative skills! Talk to employers offering full-time and internship opportunities in fields such as engineering, biotech, and information technology.*

#### **Central Maryland College Career Fair**

Thursday, February 23

9:00am-3:00pm, Towson Center

Towson University

*Over 150 employers! Brought to you by the Maryland Career Consortium, a group of 10 colleges and universities, including Johns Hopkins University.*

#### **Public Service Career Fair**

Thursday, March 9

2:00-4:30pm, Glass Pavilion

*Succeed in a career that makes a difference! Network with government agencies, non-profits and education-focused organizations offering full-time and internship opportunities.*



#### **How to Work a Career Fair**

Wednesday, February 15

4:00-5:00pm, Sherwood Room, Levering Hall

*Have you ever wondered what to do when you walk into a crowded career fair? Come to find out how to approach career fairs in a strategic way and make a great impression.*